

WELWYN HATFIELD COUNCIL
COUNCIL MEETING – 25 MARCH 2019

COUNCIL PROCEDURE RULE NO. 45 QUESTIONS – QUESTIONS BY MEMBERS

Notice of the following questions has been received in accordance with Council Procedure Rule No 45:-

1. Question to the Leader from Councillor Sara Glick

“Would the Leader please let us know how many homes have been granted planning permission by the Development Management Committee in the first 3 months of this year? What number of those will be affordable and how does this figure compare with the Council’s required annual number?”

2. Question to the Executive Member, Environment and Planning from Councillor Steve Roberts

“Does the Cabinet member believe that during the preparation for the centenary of Welwyn Garden City, it is an insult to one of the central aspects to the Garden City ethos - of this being a place to live work and play, that under the watch of this Council, alarming levels of employment area have been allowed to become residential homes?”

3. Question to the Leader from Councillor George Michaelides

"Would the leader please let us know the reason why the council called for further sites to be considered for inclusion in the local plan?"

4. Question to the Executive Member, Environment and Planning from Councillor Jill Weston

“Further to the news that recycling rates in Welwyn Hatfield have greatly reduced, does the cabinet member regret this Council’s decision to introduce charges for recycling without any provision for the collection of food waste in Welwyn Hatfield?”

5. Question to the Leader from Councillor Malcolm Cowan

“As regards recent council procurements I was under the impression that such matters were confidential until any new contract was awarded and announced after the necessary standstill period. In light of the information in the leaflet distributed around Panshanger ward and perhaps elsewhere which appears to breach that, what is going to happen and what will be done?”

6. Question to the Leader from Councillor Glyn Hayes

“Following comments made in an interview regarding the Shadow Attorney General’s description of Queensway House as “squalid and shameful” – the Leader of the Council confirmed on BBC Radio that he would be happy to live there himself.

Given there are currently numerous empty properties at Queensway House, does the Leader agree it would be beneficial for him to test that view by temporarily taking the opportunity to experience day to day life there?”

7. Question to the Leader from Councillor Rebecca Lass

“I have heard that sixth form students across the borough have been enjoying taking part in The Council’s initiative ‘Challenge 12’ since the start of the year. Please could the relevant portfolio holder explain a little more about what the challenge is and what it aims to achieve?”

8. Question to the Leader from Councillor Max Holloway

“At the last count there were 832 residents who have been moved over to Universal Credit. 627 of these residents are in arrears. At the last Cabinet Housing Panel, we learned that this equals a rent arrears value of over £500K.

That’s 627 families right here in Welwyn Hatfield that are struggling to make ends meet.

Does the Leader of the Council agree with me that this is unacceptable and will he resolve to write to the relevant secretary of state to express this Councils concerns?”

9. Question to the Leader from Councillor Simon Wrenn

“Given the Council has had its first Peer Review, can the Leader give his thoughts on the findings and suggestions for the future?”

10. Question to the Leader from Councillor Jaida Caliskan

“A recent report from a Committee of MPs found that only a third of children and young people with mental health conditions receive the treatment they need from the NHS. The report found that many are turned away because they are not ill enough whilst others face excessively long waits. This legacy is not good enough and will have long term negative affects on the future and well being of our children as well as wider society.

Could the Executive Member for Public Health confirm what they are actively doing, collaboratively or independently, to expedite and improve the inadequate access to mental health services for children within our Borough?”