

COUNCIL PROCEDURE RULE NO. 15 QUESTIONS – QUESTIONS BY MEMBERS

Notice of the following questions has been received in accordance with Council Procedure Rule No 15:

1. Question to the Executive Member for Housing from Councillor H Goldwater
“Child poverty is an issue that should concern us all. A number of key groups and organisations have identified the ‘two child cap’ as one of the key drivers for the increase in child poverty seen in the UK in the last few years. Will the leader of Welwyn Hatfield Borough Council write to our MP and to Rt Hon Jeremy Hunt MP as chancellor to ask them to remove the two child cap?”

2. Question to the Executive Member for Governance of the Council from Councillor T Thusu
“Would the portfolio holder like to explain why there has been not a meeting of the Licensing Committee since June 2022?”

3. Question to the Leader of the Council from Councillor M Holloway
“The Household Support Fund is a lifeline for many, a lifeline that the current Conservative Government has said will be removed in March.

In Welwyn Hatfield alone, this Fund has helped us fund referrals to local food banks, directly support residents with energy and fuel payments and other targeted cost of living related support.”

Can the Leader confirm what actions this Joint Administration, and Council, are taking to try and make the current Conservative Government see sense?

4. Question to the Leader of the Council from Councillor R Platt
“I note that the Council’s Environment team took what I must say was a bold (some might say risky) move and introduced a trial of kerbside cardboard collections during the Christmas period. This is always the busiest time for cardboard and is also the period with the most disruption and public confusion regarding refuse collection services. Can the leader or portfolio holder please give members an update on:
a) Whether the council and operatives consider the trial to be successful.
b) What additional delays to collections the trial caused.
c) What the additional costs were to WHBC (and ultimately residents) for the trial, and what costs would be incurred were the collections to become a permanent service.”

5. Question to the Executive Member for Planning from Councillor T.Mitchinson
“Could the relevant portfolio holder update us on what progress is being made formulating the Gosling Sports Park Masterplan?”

6. Question to the Leader of the Council from Councillor F Thomson

“At the recent Cross Party Housing Maintenance Procurement Board members were informed that the number of voids (empty Council properties) has increased significantly in recent months, and that void repair targets are not being met and are well below target.

Under the new Lib Dem/Labour administration, performance on void numbers and void turn around times is now significantly lower than during our Conservative administration.

Please can the Leader update the Council on the current number of residents on the Council’s Housing Needs Register waiting for a Council property; how many Council properties are currently empty (which Welwyn Hatfield residents could be living in); and what is the cost to the Council in rent lost?”