

WELWYN HATFIELD BOROUGH COUNCIL
COUNCIL MEETING – 1 FEBRUARY 2023

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 Leader from Councillor Max Holloway

“Would the Leader of the Council update us on what Council services are currently impacted by industrial strike action.?”

2. Question to the Leader from Councillor Michal Siewniak

“It is now almost a year since Marks and Spencer closed their store in the Howard Centre to the concern of many residents. Can the Council advise and give tangible examples of how discussions are going with the owners and managers of the Howard Centre and other key stakeholders to relet or repurpose space in that development? For instance, in meetings between M&S and Council leaders, M&S reported that they had shared with the Council their requirements for a larger Food Hall unit in a highly accessible location. Following the departure of M&S, Next and other retailers there is now circa 150,000 sq feet of space available out of a total space of 230,000 sq feet meaning 65% of the space is available to let.”

3. Question to the Leader from Councillor Margaret Birleson

“Please can the Leader inform the Council of the increase of benefits claims over the last year, how does this compare with the previous year and are they being referred to Food Banks?”

4. Question to the Leader from Councillor Lucy Musk

“Can the council confirm the numbers of households that are waiting for repairs to completed and the average wait as part of the backlog from contract changes??”

5. Question to the Leader from Councillor Lynn Chesterman

“At the recent Overview and Scrutiny Committee nobody was able to answer what the Council’s ‘front line services’ are and how these are defined. As this term is constantly used by the Cabinet in their publicity, can the Leader please explain what these are and how they are weighted when it comes to budget decisions?”