

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 Resources from Councillor Thusu
“In the recent budget statement, provision was given to allow free parking for carers. A question raised by myself at the budget scrutiny OSC was which carers would be eligible for this - private companies or individual such as family members. At the time officers indicated that this was yet to be determined. Would the portfolio holder be able to now further elaborate on which groups would receive free carers parking?”
2. Question to the Leader of the Council from Councillor Tunstall
“In last year’s election commitments were made by those now in the joint administration to enhance support for our high streets and local shops, including a comprehensive package aimed at increasing footfall and aiding local businesses. However, aside from one weekend of free parking and the introduction of free Sunday parking starting in April—more than offset by higher parking fees on Saturdays and especially weekdays—it’s unclear what concrete actions the Council has taken to fulfil these promises. Additionally, there was an intention of developing an economic strategy. Could you provide an update on the status of both these linked initiatives?”
3. Question to the Leader of the Council from Councillor Kingsbury
“During a recent CPPP meeting, the Leader of the Council put forward the idea of a borough-wide verge protection order. Irrespective if this is a good action to pursue or not, it was a suggestion not included in the papers for the meeting. This raises the question of whether there were prior consultations with the portfolio holder, other cabinet members or officers. Can he confirm if this was discussed in advance and does he agree that if it was, and as it was being proposed by the administration, and specifically the Leader of the Council, for transparency this proposal would have been better documented and shared in advance to facilitate thorough discussion among all members, rather than being introduced unexpectedly during the meeting?”
4. Question to the Leader of the Council from Councillor Kasumu
“It has been over two months since Mr Bates vs the Post Office was first broadcast, shocking the nation as they learnt about the injustice that 100s of postmasters experienced.

Of course, it has been many more months, and years, that those postmasters, and their relatives, have spent fighting for justice. Politicians from across the political divide have found the decency to apologise for any way that they may have contributed to this tragic situation - but one has chosen not to do so.

Ed Davey was the business minister responsible for the Post Office between 2010 and 2012. He has been asked to apologise on many occasions. Previous ministers have done so. We know of postmasters in our district that were affected by the scandal.

Can the Leader of the Council confirm that he will write to the Leader of the Liberal Democrats, Ed Davey, to express this Council's disappointment in Mr Davey still refusing to genuinely apologise and to urge him to do the decent thing and say sorry?"

5. Question to the Leader of the Council from Councillor Siewniak

"I am delighted that the Welwyn Hatfield Borough Council has been run for almost a year by the Joint Administration. I think that we "survived and survived well"! How do the Leader and Deputy Leader view last 12 months? Was it a failure, as some predicted, or a success story and why?"