

ANNUAL COUNCIL – 14 MAY 2008

MEMBERS' QUESTIONS

Question 1

Councillor N Clark to ask the Executive Member for Planning Policy and Transport:

*The Government made an announcement of considerable regional significance on Monday. Could the Executive Member for Planning Policy and Transport outline the implications of this announcement for East Herts?*

Question 2

Councillor N Clark to ask the Leader of the Council:

*Councillor Tindale chaired the asset management sub group meeting on 28th January when it was agreed that a report be submitted to seek further funding in relation to the new St Andrews Street car park pedestrian bridge because tenders had doubled.*

*At Council on 16th April 2008 I asked Councillor Tindale whether he had been aware of the potential for an increase in the cost of this project at the time he presented the capital budget in February. The Executive Member answered that he had not been aware. It seems as though Councillor Tindale has, once again, given the wrong information to Council.*

*I wrote to you on 17<sup>th</sup> April to ask what action you, as Leader of the Council, would be taking over this matter but have received no response.*

*Can you now please tell Council what action you have taken or will be taking over this matter?*

### Question 3

Councillor D Clark to ask the Executive Member for Community Safety and Protection:

*Could the Executive Member for Development Control please explain – in his own words - the meaning of paragraph 7.3 (regarding site visits) of the Members' Planning Code of Good Practice in our Constitution?*

### Question 4

Councillor D Clark to ask the Leader of the Council:

*Our latest report from the Audit Commission shows that the Council's rate of improvement has slowed for the second consecutive year. Improvement is well below that of other councils - only 26 out of 388 councils have improved more slowly than East Herts Council.*

*We have often been told that East Herts Council aims to be a learning Council. On February 20<sup>th</sup> I asked when this would happen and how long the Council needed. Councillor Jackson told us that he embarked on the learning process several years ago.*

*Is this a case of slow learning or is the approach simply not working?*

### Question 5

Councillor W Ashley to ask the Executive Member for Planning Policy and Transport:

*Given the announcement by Her Majesty's Government about the adoption of the East of England Plan, what action does the Executive Member for Planning Policy and Transport suggest that this Council should now be considering?*

### Question 6

Councillor R Gilbert to ask the Executive Member for Planning Policy and Transport:

*Does the Executive Member for Planning Policy and Transport agree with me that the “Local” has now disappeared out of the phrase “Local Plan” and that the work Officers and Members are putting into the new Local Plan system is a sham and will hold little or no value within the community in the future?*

### Question 7

Councillor Mrs M H Goldspink to ask the Executive Member for Environment and Conservation:

*Does East Herts District Council have a policy on the use of bottled water at its meetings and in its offices, and if so, what is that policy?*