

COUNCIL – 1 OCTOBER 2008

MEMBERS' QUESTIONS

Question 1

Councillor P A Ruffles to ask the Executive Member for Housing and Health:

The Audit Commission recently published a report to do with services for older people - "Don't Stop Me Now. Preparing for an Ageing Population." How is this to be implemented in East Herts?

Question 2

Councillor D Clark to ask the Leader of the Council:

The recent advert for a new Director of Internal Services refers to a core responsibility "to ensure with the Monitoring Officer and the Chief Executive, as far as practicable, that the Council's activities demonstrate probity, equity and transparency." Can the Leader please explain in what circumstances it might be impracticable for East Herts Council to demonstrate these three qualities?

Question 3

Councillor D Clark to ask the Leader of the Council:

At the last Council meeting, having had the benefit of notice and time to check records, Cllr Alexander, a member of the Development Control Committee who is also the portfolio holder for Development Control and the Deputy Leader, reaffirmed that he was unable to remember whether he had heard any representations from applicants or interested third parties during site visits this year, without an officer being present. Is the Leader comfortable in the knowledge that a member of the Development Control

Committee apparently cannot remember who he has met with and what was discussed and doesn't keep notes as a reminder?

Question 4

Councillor N Clark to ask the Executive Member for Community Development, Leisure and Culture:

The monitoring officer has confirmed in writing that the item on the Executive agenda of 20th August concerning the key decision to award the Leisure contract to either SLM or SLL "was not considered by one of the Scrutiny Committees". Our constitution states "Prior to any key decision being taken, Scrutiny will be given the opportunity to consider the item" and "The Scrutiny Committee will receive a full report on the item". Can the Executive Member for Community Development, Leisure and Culture explain why the provisions of our constitution were not followed in this case and why no scrutiny committee was provided with a full report covering the financial and quality aspects of the separate bids?"

Question 5

Councillor N Clark to ask the Executive Member for Resources and Internal Support:

Council agreed that the proposed capital programme to 2011 would be funded substantially from available capital receipts without the need for borrowing. The forecast for receipts arising from "Preserved Right to Buy" applications, which make up a significant proportion of the total forecast receipts, was revised upwards at the time of the budget to reflect an average 15 sales per annum. Could the Executive member update Council on the actual number of sales from "Preserved Right to Buy", and the associated capital receipts, for 2008/09 year to date?

Question 6

Councillor M Wood to ask the Executive Member for Planning Policy and Transport:

Would the Executive member agree with me that there was considerable consternation and disappointment among potential sponsors of roundabouts to find that they would be sponsoring 'as seen' and not for any floral displays or new planting. Would he further agree that this indicates a complete lack of understanding as to the purpose of roundabout sponsorship and, considering the floral displays visible on roundabouts in neighbouring authorities and further afield, and a lack of pride and initiative within East Herts District .

Question 7

Councillor Mrs M H Goldspink to ask the Executive Member for Planning Policy and Transport:

Why can we not have any flowers on the Sponsored Roundabout in Bishop's Stortford?

Question 8

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

When will it be possible to provide a Litter Bin beside the new Landmark Bridge at Bishop's Stortford Goods Yard?