

COUNCIL – 4 MARCH 2009

MEMBERS' QUESTIONS

Question 1

Councillor D Clark to ask the Leader of the Council:

According to Grant Shapps, HIPS are clumsy, ineffective and useless – the experts ridiculed them, the industry doesn't want them; the market doesn't need them and the next Conservative Government will scrap them. Can the Leader explain why the proposed service plans he has brought forward include an action "to investigate the possibility of producing Home Information Packs through the local land charges service"?

Question 2

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

In January 2008, Community Scrutiny Committee was given assurances that, once the new leisure contract commenced, the contractor would only be able to propose price changes of up to 10% each year and then only with the agreement of the Council. On that understanding, committee members supported the recommendations on the tender specification. At the subsequent Executive, you thanked Community Scrutiny Committee for its comments, which were incorporated in the final report, and the recommendations were approved. However, the paper presented to Corporate Scrutiny on Feb 24th 2009 proposes increases of more than 25% in some leisure fees. Why was the 10% upper limit on annual price variations, agreed by members, not built into the leisure contract; and what control, if any, does the Council now have over price rises at East Herts leisure facilities run by SLM?