

COUNCIL – 3 MARCH 2010

MEMBERS' QUESTIONS

Question 1

Councillor N Clark to ask the Leader of the Council:

*At Council last week there was significant criticism of the process undertaken by the Independent Remuneration Panel, which was controlled and run entirely by our officers. Members will recall I thanked the officers for their hard work; however certain Committee and Community Voice Chairmen and Executive Members suggested that there had been improper interference in the process. Officers did not bring any concerns forward to Council last week and they have now confirmed to me that, whilst there was intense public and press interest in the issue,*

- the process complied with legislation;*
- officers did not supply anyone with the contact details of the IRP;*
- all materials supplied by members for the IRP went through officers;*
- the chair of the Shadow IRP sent their report directly to an officer who supplied it to the IRP;*
- all meetings of group leaders with the IRP were held in the presence of an officer; and*
- the IRP members themselves made no formal or informal complaints about interference in the process.*

*Will the Leader now disassociate himself from the unfounded public criticism of officers and agree with me that there was no interference with the IRP process?*

Question 2

Councillor D Clark to ask the Leader of the Council:

*Will the Leader properly address the question I put to him in May 2008, nearly two years ago:*

*Paragraph 12.1 of the Council Procedure Rules in our Constitution state that portfolio Holders shall submit regular portfolio reports to full council giving*

*information for members on developments in each portfolio area since the last report. Can the Leader explain why there have been no such reports since this Administration took office?  
and can he give a firm date for adhering to this part of our Constitution, which specifies that portfolio holders should be ready to take questions without notice on any item in their portfolio report?*

### Question 3

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

*Is it really necessary in light of present rationalisation on expenditure; that the Executive are considering cutting even sustenance prior to major council meetings, when most members have travelled straight from a workplace, or been engaged in Council commitment elsewhere without chance to recharge batteries?*

### Question 4

Councillor D A A Peek to ask the Executive Member for Resources and Internal Support:

*Can the Executive Member confirm whether East Herts Council saved £1.9m on major refurbishment costs when it recently disposed of its interest in the Council offices in The Causeway, Bishop's Stortford?*