

MEMBERS' QUESTIONS

Question 1	Cllr Ian Devonshire to ask Cllr Vicky Glover-Ward, the Executive Member for Planning and Growth
<p>Please could you let us know why there have been so few Development Management Committees since the election in May of this year. Up to the end of November 2023, there has only been two DMC meetings in seven months.</p> <p>It was reported last year that this Authority was the ninth busiest planning authority in the country. Therefore, it is worrying that we are having so few DMC meetings.</p> <p>The Development Management Committee is, obviously, very important to demonstrate transparency in the planning process, so please could the Executive Member explain why applications are not coming to DMC.</p>	
Question 2	Cllr Eric Buckmaster to ask Cllr Vicky Glover-Ward, the Executive Member for Planning and Growth
<p>Following the disappointing news that this Council is closing Ward Freman Swimming Pool, concerns have been raised yet again by a number of residents about the current condition and future status of the two other joint-use pools in the District, including Leventhorpe Leisure Centre in Sawbridgeworth, which is in desperate need of refurbishment.</p> <p>In August, an unnamed spokesperson for this Council was quoted</p>	

in the Bishop's Stortford Independent stating that 50% of the allocated £122,760 of Section 106 money from the SAWB2 and SAWB3 housing developments - which was ring-fenced in the S106 agreement for 'Grange Paddocks and/or Leventhorpe Leisure Centre' - remains unassigned.

As Grange Paddocks is now complete, open and operational, could the Executive Member for Planning and Growth confirm that this unassigned £60,000 will be spent on refurbishing Leventhorpe Leisure Centre, which will help to attract additional users and therefore ensure its continued operation for the benefit of all residents in Sawbridgeworth?

Question 3

Cllr Joseph Dumont to ask Cllr Sarah Hopewell, the Executive Member for Wellbeing

Local Councils, including this one, have responsibility for licensing dog breeders and ensuring puppies are bred in safe and healthy conditions.

Illegal puppy farms – in which large numbers of litters are bred in poor conditions without proper monitoring – continue to be used throughout the UK. It is estimated that 400,000 farmed puppies are purchased each year.

Does the Executive Member have any intelligence on the scale of this issue in East Herts and what steps is the Council taking to make sure the public is aware of the importance of acquiring puppies from licensed breeders?

Question 4

Cllr John Wyllie to ask Cllr Tim Hoskin, the Executive Member for Environmental Sustainability

Some Bishop's Stortford high street businesses struggle with staff recruitment and retention due to the proximity of Stansted Airport,

where many employees get free parking. The Executive Member for Environmental Sustainability published a scheme in July, which would allow some Bishop's Stortford Town Centre workers to benefit from reduced parking charges. This scheme was supported by the Bishop's Stortford BID, the Executive Member then promptly withdrew his own scheme.

At the Full Council meeting on the 18th October the Leader of the Council said that the scheme was withdrawn so that an alternative scheme could be introduced.

Can the Executive Member for Environmental Sustainability tell me what the proposed new scheme is and when it will be launched?

Question 5

Cllr Nahum Clements to ask Cllr Sarah Hopewell, the Executive Member for Wellbeing

With the first phase of the Hertford Theatre opening next Spring, could the Executive Member for Wellbeing please provide an update on what the total expected cost of the Theatre is, and are any specific alterations being undertaken or any aspects that remain to be funded as a result of cost increases?

Question 6

Cllr Carolyn Redfern to ask Cllr Sarah Hopewell, the Executive Member for Wellbeing

How many extra car journeys into the centre of Hertford are expected as a result of the theatre opening and what plans are in place to:-

- a. promote the use of public transport, and active travel
- b. ensure adequate parking is in place to support the remaining car journeys

Question 7

Cllr David Jacobs to ask Cllr Carl Brittain, the Executive Member for Financial Sustainability

Can the Executive Member for Financial Sustainability confirm how much funding this council has received from the following central Government development funds (the figure in brackets being the total value of the funds across England and Wales)?

Future High Streets Fund (£1bn)

Towns Fund (£3.6bn)

Levelling Up Fund (£3.8bn)

Levelling Up Partnership (£400m)

Long Terms Plan Towns Fund (£1.1bn)