

COUNCIL – 13 May 2026

MEMBERS' QUESTIONS

Question 1	Cllr Bob Deering to ask Cllr Carl Brittain, the Executive Member for Financial Stability
At the Audit & Governance Committee meeting on 24 February 2026, it was reported that the planning dept is overspent on budget but still understaffed. I asked what the further cost would be to bring the department up to a full staffing level. The Director for Finance, Risk and Performance said that he would provide a written answer. I chased for this on 5 April 2026 but it has still not come through. I would therefore be grateful if the Executive Member for Financial Sustainability would now answer my question and provide the requested costings?	
Question 2	Cllr David Andrews to ask Cllr Ben Crystall, Leader of the Council
At two of the last three meetings of the Planning Committee, officers have recommended approval for applications for two major residential developments in High Cross. The first was for 36 units and the second was for up to 95 units. These developments will increase the size of High Cross by approximately 40 % and are therefore very significant. Officers acknowledged that each application was unsustainable. The residents of High Cross and all of rural East Hertfordshire would like an explanation as to why unsustainable development is being recommended for approval, particularly when the Green Party forms a large part of the administration?	
Question 3	Cllr Eric Buckmaster to ask Cllr Vicky Glover-Ward, Executive Member for Planning and Growth
From recent experience, the efforts and good work undertaken by our planning enforcement officers is commendable, however can the Executive Member say how many live enforcement cases there are currently and what is in place to reduce the number to a manageable level before handing over to a successor council?	
Question 4	Cllr Ian Devonshire to ask Cllr Ben Crystall, Leader of the Council

Hundreds of Jewish people live in East Hertfordshire. Every one of these individuals is entitled to live and worship in peace and safety or go about their everyday business just as all other residents.

Will the Leader of the Council confirm that he deplors any and all forms of anti-semitism, including the spate of anti-Semitic attacks in the UK over the past few months?

Question 5	Cllr Chris Hart to ask Cllr Vicky Glover-Ward, Executive Member for Planning and Growth
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Is it the intention of the Administration to continue relying upon an out-of-date Water Cycle Study when determining applications for planning permission Ware2?

Question 6	Cllr Aubrey Holt to ask Cllr Tim Hoskin, Executive Member for Environmental Sustainability
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Given local media has suggesting this Council will be 'increasing collections' to address the district-wide crisis of overflowing public and dog waste bins, will the Executive Member provide a detailed breakdown of the specific additional resources and long-term monitoring measures being deployed to ensure this represents a permanent return to a clean environment, rather than a temporary reactive measure?

Question 7	Cllr David Woolcombe, to ask Cllr Vicky Glover-Ward, Executive Member for Planning and Growth
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I'm sure that we're all pleased that the Gilston Development is going ahead and that our Executive Member for Planning is committed to "... working alongside the applicants to help ensure the proposals are delivered to the high quality expected for this important site."

However, I'm equally sure that, due to the parlous state of Thames Water's finances, many of you share my concerns that the sewage treatment services required by these 10,000 new homes and all the other new build planning consents passed by this council, will not be met at anything like the "high quality" that we, or new residents of our District, have the right to expect.

My research tells me that Thames Water's forecast for equivalent population growth generated by these new builds is under-estimated by at least two-thirds.

What figures is the Executive Member working from on the Population Equivalent to be served by Rye Meads after the delivery of the Gilston and other planning consents agreed by this council to date?