

COUNCIL – 22 July 2026

MEMBERS' QUESTIONS

Question 1	Cllr Aubrey Holt to ask Cllr Sarah Hopewell, Executive Member for Wellbeing
Following the shocking revelation of a near-£1 million operational loss at BEAM, on exactly what date did the Executive Member first become aware that the facility's finances had run out of control?	
Question 2	Cllr Bob Deering to ask Cllr Carl Brittain, the Executive Member for Financial Stability
At the recent Audit & Governance meeting in relation to BEAM it was reported that the accounting principles that apply to this Council do not align with the approach that BEAM would wish to take to its accounts. I therefore asked if consideration has been given to changing the corporate owning structure of BEAM. I did not receive an answer. Please will the Executive Member for Financial Sustainability advise if any consideration has been given to this in his 3 years in post. If so, when and what conclusions were drawn?	
Question 3	Cllr David Jacobs to ask Cllr Ben Crystall, Leader of the Council
Following the introduction of legislation allowing local authorities to conduct High Street Rental Auctions (HSRAs) to tackle persistently vacant commercial properties (which was introduced through the Levelling Up and Regeneration Act 2023) and noting that new burden funding is available to support any local schemes, what plans does the administration have for using this legislation to revive our local high streets?	
Question 4	Cllr Chris Hart to ask Cllr Vicky Glover-Ward, the Executive Member for Planning and Growth
In the absence of any planned upgrades the Rye Meads STW in the current Thames Water business plan to 2030, what robust measures	

does EHDC intend to enforce its condition 21 attached to planning permission at Gilston "that no occupation will take place until such upgrades are in place"?	
Question 5	Cllr David Jacobs to ask Cllr Carl Brittain, the Executive Member for Financial Stability
Noting that the Executive decided on 3 June 2025 that ‘the freehold of the commercial and residential block owned by the council at Elizabeth Road, Bishop’s Stortford be marketed for disposal, in its current condition and with the current short-term leases in place’. Can the Executive member provide a progress report on the sale of these properties, including an indication as to when the sale might be completed and then reasons for the significant delay, which is preventing any investment in the parade?	
Question 6	Cllr Yvonne Estop to ask Cllr Vicky Glover-Ward, the Executive Member for Planning and Growth
I understand the Council has formally adopted the Local Cycling and Walking Infrastructure Plan (LCWIP) for East Herts, in partnership with Herts County Council, for which we have waited three years. It is part of the Government’s strategy to make walking, wheeling, and cycling the natural choice for shorter journeys. The jointly adopted LCWIP is a set of locations for conceptual improvements. Which projects in Bishop’s Stortford are EHC officers now recommending to HCC for priority design, funding and implementation?	
Question 7	Cllr Yvonne Estop to ask Cllr Tim Hoskin, the Executive Member for Environmental Sustainability
Trade waste is collected by several different waste companies, not just our own contractor Veolia. Trade bins, trade sacks and the other litter they attract are a blight on our high streets. In our own trade waste contract with Veolia, the contractor provides a service whereby businesses take Voelia sacks, and place them on the pavement for collection. Can you undertake to review all Veolia trade sack collection sites to minimise detriment to the public spaces of our towns?	

