

TITLE OF REPORT: QUESTIONS FROM MEMBERS

In accordance with Standing Order 4.8.11(b), four questions were submitted by Members by the deadline date for questions set out in the Council's Constitution.

In accordance with Standing Order 4.8.11(f) – Maximum Number of Questions:

“A Member may ask only one question under 4.8.11(b) or 4.8.11(c) except with the consent of the Chairman of the Council, committee or subcommittee. The maximum number of questions that may be asked at any meeting of the Full Council is three. If there are multiple parts, then each will be treated as an individual question for the purposes of this Rule and if the number of questions exceeds three the questions to be asked shall be determined by ballot to be conducted by the Proper Officer. Any outstanding questions unable to be asked should be addressed in writing to the Proper Officer for a written response to be provided to all Members.”

Accordingly, a ballot was conducted on 14 July 2017 and the three questions set out below were selected at random. In accordance with the Constitution, written answers will be provided to all Members in respect of the question (set out overleaf) that was unsuccessful in the ballot.

(A) Planning Applications

Councillor Steve Jarvis to Councillor David Levett (Executive Member for Planning and Enterprise):

“Why have the Council's officers been asking developers to submit planning applications for sites identified in the Local Plan in advance of the Examination in Public of the Plan?”

(B) Transport, Parking Enforcement and Safety

Councillor Judi Billing to Councillor Ray Shakespeare-Smith (Executive Member for Policy, Transport and Green Issues):

“Could the Portfolio Holder for Policy, Transport and Green Issues outline what arrangements are being put in place to ensure that we have the capacity to fulfil our responsibilities for transport, parking enforcement and safety including liaising properly with the County Council on such issues for the benefit of the people of North Herts?”

(C) Communication to Members

Councillor Ian Albert to Councillor Ray Shakespeare-Smith (Executive Member for Policy, Transport and Green Issues):

“Could the Portfolio Holder for Policy, Transport and Green Issues outline his views for ensuring that councillors are kept informed by officers of matters of importance to their roles as effective ward councillors, so that they are not mostly informed of such matters by the press, community groups or constituents?”

The following question was unsuccessful in the ballot, and will be dealt with by way of a written response from the Executive Member to all Members of the Council:

Hitchin Town Centre Working Party

Councillor Paul Clark to Councillor Lynda Needham (Leader of the Council):

“When will the Hitchin Town Centre Working Party meet following the Project Board being wound up?”