

Public Questions

WRITTEN QUESTIONS

A period of not more than fifteen minutes shall be allowed at each ordinary meeting for questions submitted by a member of the public.

The question will be answered without discussion. The person who asked the question may ask one relevant supplementary question, which shall be put and answered without discussion. The person to whom a question, or supplementary question has been put may decline to answer it.

The following written questions have been received from members of the public.

Dave Croydon

Question:

I'd like to welcome the new Executive Director and ask if she would be willing to meet with the Brighton and Hove Housing Coalition to talk about her previous experiences and what she hopes to achieve during her stay in Brighton.

Barry Hughes

Question:

We welcome the references to the Homeless Bill of Rights in the Homelessness and Rough Sleeping Strategy before the Committee. They demand a question. The promises made in the Labour and Green manifestos more than a year ago and the Joint Housing Programme almost nine months ago relate to the adoption of the Homeless Bill of Rights, as did the petition presented to full Council on 25th July last year.

When is the City of Brighton and Hove actually going to adopt the Homeless Bill of Rights?

David Thomas

We congratulate officers and councillors on the response to the notice of motion, and all the hard work that has gone into the tremendous response to the covid-19 pandemic.

We have a question about the aspirations of the council in the post-pandemic world. It is gestured towards in the response, but it is absent from the Homelessness and Rough Sleeping Strategy, perhaps understandably in this crisis still a very scanty and unambitious document.

Is the Council committed to providing in the future year-round accommodation, with individual rooms rather than shared space, available to all homeless people without precondition?

Public Question (Redacted)

Background: I become homeless after going into private rented accommodation due to moving out of hostels, I then become homeless due to a misunderstanding of universal credits and rent. I was therefore placed in to emergency accommodation. I reported on numerous occasions about disrepairs not only in my room but the whole building. I was then evicted. My whole experience in the last 9 months has been the hardest I've had to deal with in my life.

Question:

Can the council provide a detailed overview of what day to day support people like myself receive from when we are placed into unsupported emergency accommodation?

Charles Harrison

Question:

***Item 8 Solar PV programme.** Item 4.20 mentions a major risk of **Grid Capacity** in Brighton and Hove, which may result in refusal of some grid connection agreements. I also note the statement that "the Council has no control over this".*

Our commitment to be Carbon Zero by 2030 will make us more dependent on electrical power as we phase out fossil fuels.

Does the Committee agree that this serious constraint on our Climate Emergency Action Plan is a risk that must be properly and regularly monitored for likelihood and impact and mitigated effectively?

Has the Council considered escalating this to UK Power Networks and Central Government?

Public Question (Redacted)

Background: Our family have been placed into emergency accommodation hostels in Brighton and Eastbourne. We were placed into unaffordable

Temporary Accommodation, that's 8 times in 4 years. My neighbours have security and an affordable council home. This month we have £79 to live off.

Question: you define this as suitable placement under homelessness policy, can you explain how you expect us to live and survive on £79 a month?

Daniel Harris

Background: Can I welcome the new plans for extra in-house services such as pier place, campaigners had originally identified this building four years ago. I've had a lot of issues reported to me from residents living in privately run emergency accommodation's in and out of the city, incidents such as; serious assaults, security concerns, reports of drug dealing and county lines, death in WCH and a revenge eviction; the feedback from residents is they feel isolated, neglected and alone.

Question: The Feedback from the Kendal Court health watch report is clear, better facilities, more support and faster pathways into more secure and settled are needed. Can the council tell me what they have learned from that and similar reports into private sector run emergency accommodation?

John Hadman

Question:

Gladstone Court. *I am pleased that BHCC approved the purchase of Gladstone Court at the HC Meeting on 15 Jan 2020, agenda item 52.*

I understand these 80's flats were refurbished in 2013 and improvements are recommended to fire compartmentation, windows, pumped FW drainage, communal heating system, PV installations, lift, etc, as report item nrs 3.07 to 3.12.

I note that a total investment of £1.4m is estimated for the refurbishment of these 38 flats, or £750k to bring them to a lettable standard (report item 3.12).

Would you please confirm the scope of these improvement works, indicative cost breakdowns, procurement approach and timescale, currently planned?
