

Brighton & Hove City Council

Council

Agenda Item 57

Subject: Written questions from Councillors

Date of meeting: 18 December 2025

Report of: Director of Governance & Law

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Ward(s) affected: All

For general release

The following questions have been received from Councillors and will be taken as read along with the written answer detailed below:

1. Councillor Fishleigh asked:

Once the current phase of CIL distribution has been finalised, what is the process and timescales for distributing the CIL accrued during 2025? We are ready to spend it in Ovingdean and West Saltdean.

Reply from Councillor Taylor, Deputy Leader & Cabinet Member for Finance & City Regeneration:

2. Councillor Bagaeen asked:

TROs 19a-2025 and 19b-2025 – Dyke Close: Residents have been in touch with ourselves and with officers about these TROs and it would be helpful to understand how and why officers created and advertised both TROs without reverting to ward councillors given the furore at the last time the council tried to intervene in this location in November/December 2024 when there was substantial opposition to the proposal for a Light Touch Parking Scheme on Dyke Close which officers would have been aware of.

Reply from Councillor Muten, Cabinet Member for Transport & City Infrastructure:

3. Councillor Bagaeen asked:

Parking scheme consultation in Goldstone Crescent, the Nevills, the Orchards and Cranmer Avenue: Could you please share an update on what is the current status and details of plans to consult on a parking scheme in these locations.

Reply from Councillor Muten, Cabinet Member for Transport & City Infrastructure:

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4. Councillor Theobald asked:

When is the sports pavilion at Patcham Place going to be reopened so that all the sports clubs can use the changing room and toilet facilities? This sports ground is used all year by cricket and football clubs. They are in great need of these facilities.

Reply from Councillor Robins, Cabinet Member for Sports, Recreation & Libraries:

5. Councillor Theobald asked:

Vale Avenue Park playground is a target for vandalism and has become a real eyesore. It has had to be retarmacked recently due to the vandalism. Is there new funding available for the playground to be renovated?

Reply from Councillor Robins, Cabinet Member for Sports, Recreation & Libraries:

6. Councillor Meadows asked:

A speed hump/pedestrian crossing was installed in Winfield Avenue in February 2025. However, it neither slows cars down nor acts as a pedestrian crossing as it doesn't have the line markings of one. This has cost thousands of pounds to install yet is a failure. It has not made it easier for pedestrians – in particular children going to school - to cross the road or reduced the speed of cars. When will this speed hump's effectiveness be investigated and improved? We do not want the same mistake to happen again.

Reply from Councillor Muten, Cabinet Member for Transport & City Infrastructure:

7. Councillor Meadows asked:

Patcham & Hollingbury councillors were recently told that, despite applying for a court order, the council is reluctant to move caravans parked at the bottom of Carden Hill because the council would have to pay for their storage or be liable to owners making a claim on the land if their caravan is left there, despite it being close to centres used by children. We were told that "ultimately, although these activities are coordinated through Community Safety, as it's the landowners/stewards, Parks or Highways who cover the costs of this they make the ultimate decision on the removal of these vehicles." Clearly this policy, if true, will only make illegal parking more prevalent. Why can't the council simply enforce the removal of caravans, and tents, from illegal sites following a court order? This lack of enforcement may be leading to tents being pitched illegally across the city.

Reply from Councillor Muten, Cabinet Member for Transport & City Infrastructure:

8. Councillor McNair asked:

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When will the central white lines be repainted on Carden Hill? The road was resurfaced in August, and residents have been enquiring for some time without response. And when will the white lines be completed at the entrance to Warmdene Way to avoid it being blocked by parked cars?

Reply from Councillor Muten, Cabinet Member for Transport & City Infrastructure:

9. Councillor McNair asked:

Much of the crazy paving in the Peace Gardens is a serious trip hazard. It would be very easy to trip and fall a couple of feet from the raised walkway into the sunken garden where the paving is completely missing. In order to avoid residents getting injured, when will the worst areas be repaired?

Reply from Councillor Allen, Cabinet Member for Customer Services & Public Realm:

10. Councillor Lyons asked:

Trees are being removed in residential streets within Hove Park vicinity for a variety of reasons, causing distress to residents as lost trees are not being replaced. If funding is an issue, can't the council approach local garden centres to provide saplings that could have a small advertising board attached "supplied by xyz garden centres"?

When will residents be allowed to donate a tree outside their home?

Reply from Councillor Robins, Cabinet Member for Sports, Recreation & Libraries:

11. Councillor Lyons asked:

Residents within the Nevill Rd, Nevill Ave & the closes have been asking for a Parking Consultation for some time now. In addition, residents in Woodland Drive are calling for additional parking measures. Noting the Parking Scheme Priority timetable was agreed earlier this year & that Officers are working on the detail of the consultation – householders are asking when ward councillors in Westdene & Hove Park will be consulted for the promised meeting to discuss the boundary of the scheme.

Reply from Councillor Muten, Cabinet Member for Transport & City Infrastructure:

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12. Councillor Lyons asked:

I have received a steady number of complaints as to the number of dogs being walked by any one person in Waterhall. Only this week, a resident contacted me who came across a group of three walkers that had 22 dogs with them. Trying to get past them was not pleasant for the resident who felt intimidated. Further on, another two walkers had 20 dogs between them. Once again, the resident had to stand still until the walkers got control of them. Can BHHC consider implementing a Public Space Protection Order? I understand many councils impose a maximum of 4 dogs for the general public & potentially more for professional dog walkers, which can also be capped by their insurance.

Reply from Councillor Robins, Cabinet Member for Sports, Recreation & Libraries:

13. Councillor Lyons asked:

A resident contacted me recently disappointed & distressed to discover that graffiti had been scrawled on their private property that is not offensive but not covered by the council. To keep Brighton and Hove clean, this sort of thing should be dealt with quickly to prevent reoccurrence.

The going market rate for private cleaning is circa £100+, which falls neatly under most household insurance excess.

Surely the Council could use a certain amount of discretion when deeming what should be cleaned or not on private property?

Reply from Councillor Rowkins, Deputy Leader & Cabinet Member for Net Zero & Environmental Services:

14. Councillor Hill asked:

Does the administration support the pressure group Compass's campaign to elect the Sussex & Brighton Mayor through the Supplementary Vote system rather than First Past the Post which is currently proposed for Mayoral elections in May 2026? Compass have also suggested delaying the election until May 2027 to align with local elections.

Reply from Councillor Sankey, Leader of the Council & Cabinet Chair:

15. Councillor Hill asked:

On the surface, the new budget announcement to absorb council SEND debts is welcome. However, concerns remain about how this is to be paid for, with fears it will result in either less funding for schools or by making it harder to get an EHCP. Is there any information the administration has regarding this? Can it also lobby the government to support local schools with this?

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Reply from Councillor Daniel, Cabinet Member for Children, Families & Youth Services:

16. Councillor Hill asked:

It is good to see the administration's support for a tourist tax in the city. Therefore, can I encourage the administration and all members to lobby Mayoral candidates to allow our city to implement a tourist tax in their manifestos since the government has given the strategic authority powers to implement this?

Reply from Councillor Miller, Cabinet Member for Culture, Heritage & Tourism:

17. Councillor Shanks asked:

Would the cabinet agree that one of the major issues for people taking up employment is the poverty trap of the benefits system. A previous council passed a motion to support a pilot of Universal Basic Income for Creative Workers. Will you agree to revisit this idea as part of the Get Sussex Working Plan?

Reply from Councillor Taylor, Deputy Leader & Cabinet Member for Finance & City Regeneration:

18. Councillor West asked:

The Administration heralded their summer Park & Ride scheme with much fanfare, but I would like to understand whether it was value for money or made a significant difference to the number of vehicles heading into the city. Please can you provide an analysis of the costs and the usage of the scheme, in particular including the number of days it was operating, how many journeys were made and the number of users and the data regarding the number of car journeys estimated to have been avoided into the City?

Reply from Councillor Muten, Cabinet Member for Transport & City Infrastructure:

19. Councillor Sykes asked:

The proposed Western red route as published for consultation shows no loading bays between Little Western Street and Brunswick Street East. There are at least 10 hospitality businesses on the south side of this stretch of Western Road including two grassroots music venues. The council has historically recognised the importance of grassroots arts venues to the city's character. Without any provision for loading and unloading, and for receiving stock deliveries, these venues may no longer be viable. Can this be revisited?

Reply from Councillor Muten, Cabinet Member for Transport & City Infrastructure:

20. Councillor Sykes asked:

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Can the Administration inform on its progress with the two actions agreed under item 46b (amended Notice of Motion on Gaza and council financial exposure) of the meeting of Council on 13th Oct 2025?

Reply from Councillor Taylor, Deputy Leader & Cabinet Member for Finance & City Regeneration:

21. Councillor Sykes asked:

Western Road red route: How will the Transport Lead use consultation response figures to inform a decision on the proposed red route and will a simple majority of 'votes in favour' or 'votes against' effectively make the decision? How will petition figures be taken into consideration?

Reply from Councillor Muten, Cabinet Member for Transport & City Infrastructure:

22. Councillor Pickett asked:

A number of residents that have gardens have said that they do not want food waste bins as they already have their own compost areas. Why wasn't there an option to opt out of food waste bins that would have saved the council money on materials and unnecessary collections where bins are not being used?

Reply from Councillor Rowkins, Deputy Leader & Cabinet Member for Net Zero & Environmental Services:

23. Councillor Pickett asked:

With flooding in built up urban areas becoming more of an issue as our climate changes, when will the council initiate a policy that sets out rules for paving over gardens that include keeping a percentage porous?

Reply from Councillor Muten, Cabinet Member for Transport & City Infrastructure:

24. Councillor Goldsmith asked:

Last October I asked about additional cycle hangars in the city and was told that the installation of further hangars would be kept under review. Most hangars in the city are full, and I know that many people are still on wait lists to be able to use them. Despite having many flats that make safely storing bikes safely either difficult or impossible, Regency has a very low number of cycle hangers, especially in the city centre, and I regularly get asked by residents if more can be installed. Would you commit to at least producing a report, assessing the cost implications of introducing enough hangars to match the current needs of residents, so a decision can be made by cabinet?

Reply from Councillor Muten, Cabinet Member for Transport & City Infrastructure:

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25. Councillor McLeay asked:

The recent e-scooter consultation highlighted that many older people faced barriers to participating online and did not manage to find an alternative way to have their views recorded. In Age UK's April 2025 response to the Digital Inclusion Action Plan, they called for a legal right to offline access to public services. What steps will Brighton & Hove City Council take to ensure older residents, who may be digitally excluded, can fully engage in future consultations, through accessible formats such as telephone, postal surveys, and in-person opportunities?

Reply from Councillor Allen, Cabinet Member for Customer Services & Public Realm:

26. Councillor Wilkinson asked:

St James's Street remains one of our city's most vibrant and diverse areas, but ongoing issues with anti-social behaviour, visible drug use, and related criminal activity continue to affect residents, businesses, and visitors. These challenges put pressure on local services and undermine confidence in the safety and wellbeing of the neighbourhood.

Residents and stakeholders have repeatedly raised concerns and are asking the council to take a proactive role in improving public safety. One commonly suggested measure is fixed CCTV, both as a deterrent and to support enforcement and investigations.

Will the administration commit to working closely with residents, local businesses, Sussex Police, and ward councillors to explore what a council-led public safety plan for the St James's Street area could look like, including the possible role of CCTV?

This would show the community that their concerns are taken seriously and that the council is committed to practical, effective solutions.

Reply from Councillor Allen, Cabinet Member for Customer Services & Public Realm:

27. Councillor Wilkinson asked:

Ultra Low Emission Zone for Buses: St James's Street is a vital part of our city centre, home to a busy shopping area, a diverse residential community, and a major bus corridor used by people every day.

Despite this, the street is not currently included in Brighton & Hove's existing Ultra Low Emission Zone for buses.

The continued exposure to harmful pollutants affects some of our most vulnerable residents - including older people, young children, and those with long-term health conditions, and could be strengthened to align with the Council's wider commitments to improving public health and air quality.

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Will the Cabinet Member commit to reviewing the feasibility of extending the city's current ULEZ zone to include St James's Street, and to bring forward options that would deliver measurable improvements to air quality in this part of the city centre?

Reply from Councillor Muten, Cabinet Member for Transport & City Infrastructure: