

Brighton & Hove City Council

Cabinet

Agenda Item 99(a)

Subject: Member Questions

Date of meeting: 22 January 2026

A maximum period of fifteen minutes in total shall be made available at each meeting of the Executive for questions from Members of the Council. The questions included on the list of questions referred to above shall be taken as read at the Cabinet meeting. The question will be answered either orally or at the discretion of the Chair by a written answer circulated after the meeting. Officers may assist the Leader or a Cabinet Member with technical answers to questions. No supplementary questions shall be permitted.

The following written questions have been received from Members:

(35) Councillor West- Sussex and Brighton devolution and Mayoral election

It is very regrettable that the Cabinet took the gung-ho decision to enter the city into the Government's fast track for a combined mayoral authority in Sussex. The overly hasty process has severely limited meaningful public engagement and a well-considered and inclusive approach to decision making. The best advice was that rather than rushing Devolution and the accompanying drive for Local Government Re-organisation, together these processes would need to take much longer to get right. The Government has finally caught up with this thinking and now the project is in a complete mess. It was very poor and inappropriate judgement of the Executive to put political pride before good governance. Will the Leader of the Council show responsibility for this fiasco and resign?

(36) Councillor McLeay- Urgent Work for Incoming & Lateral Electrical Mains replacement in Council Housing

Given the significant risk of electrical mains failure and the impact on heating, lighting, lifts, door entry and fire safety systems, can Cabinet confirm what contingency arrangements are in place for residents (particularly vulnerable or disabled residents) should a sudden loss of power occur before works begin?

(37) Councillor McLeay- Urgent Work for Incoming & Lateral Electrical Mains replacement in Council Housing

What level of oversight had previously been applied to electrical safety in these blocks, and what went wrong such that these risks were only detected through recent testing?

(38) Councillor McLeay- Urgent Work for Incoming & Lateral Electrical Mains replacement in Council Housing

Has the council reviewed whether previous inspections or maintenance regimes were adequate, and if not, will responsibility be established for any failure in oversight, internally or with UKPN?

(39) Councillor McLeay- Urgent Work for Incoming & Lateral Electrical Mains replacement in Council Housing

How will the Council ensure that awarding contracts under urgency procedures still guarantees competitive pricing, quality workmanship, and full regulatory compliance?

(40) Councillor McLeay- Urgent Work for Incoming & Lateral Electrical Mains replacement in Council Housing

Given that these risks were found only because of proactive testing, what assurance can the Council provide that similar risks are not present in other buildings, particularly older high rise blocks?