WRITTEN QUESTIONS FROM MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC

A period of not more than fifteen minutes shall be allowed for questions submitted by a member of the public who either lives or works in the area of the authority at each ordinary meeting of the Council.

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

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

(a) Mr K Kirk

"Does the Council agree that the government's plans for the NHS in its recent white paper, involve such a degree of reorganisation that it should be implemented only once adequate consultation with the medical profession and the wider public has taken place, and only when the policy has been proved effective by pilot schemes? Further, the timing of this policy, involving massive transitional costs when the government is planning extensive cuts in public spending, is ill advised.

Councillor Norman, Cabinet Member for Adult Social Care & Health, will reply.

(b) Ms R Lowe

"How confident are the council about youth services continuing to meet the needs for disabled young people?"

Councillor Brown, Cabinet Member for Children & Young People, will reply.

(c) Mr L Walter

"In June of this year a large piece of concrete fell nearly 8 floors outside the front entrance of Dudeney Lodge on Upper Hollingdean Road. To date, the only action taken by the Council has been the construction of scaffolding at the bottom of the building. Will the Cabinet Member commit to carrying out a full maintenance survey of Dudeney Lodge to determine the cause of the incident and to reassure the residents that a similar episode can be prevented?"

Councillor Caulfield, Cabinet Member for Housing, will reply.

(d) Mr P Philo

"I am a concerned resident of Withdean Ward and user of the facilities of Withdean Stadium. At a time of cuts in public spending I am concerned about its future post the departure of the football club next year. Can the Council please reassure me that that the stadium will not be closed down or the facilities reduced next year?"

Councillor Smith, Cabinet Member for Culture, Recreation & Tourism will reply.

(e) Ms S Shanks

"What is happening to the council owned property at 243/ 245 Preston Road which has been empty and was recently occupied by squatters and previously by travellers? This is a Victorian property which has been allowed to fall into disrepair. Is the council planning to repair it and use for housing, if so when, it has now been 'officially 'empty for at least two years."

Councillor Caulfield, Cabinet Member for Housing, will reply.

(f) Mr R Jarrett

"Would Councillor Theobald please ask Highways to investigate the feasibility of installing pedestrian crossing lights at the junction of Cromwell Road and The Drive in Hove, on the two arms of the junction which do not currently have them? This would remove an anomaly and make it safer for residents to cross these busy roads road rather than taking their lives in their hands. This would be of particular benefit to parents with pushchairs and people in mobility buggies."

Councillor Theobald, Cabinet Member for Environment, will reply.

(g) Mr S Guy

"Could the Cabinet Member provide me with the following information with regard to the proposal to turn Portslade Community College into an Academy:

Where the funding to finance the proposal is coming from;
How much will be earmarked for the new build;
The time-scale for the release of these funds;
What conditions are going to be imposed on the sponsor in order to secure the sponsorship and therefore the funding; and

Is the sponsor going to be required to make any financial commitment at all in order to secure the agreement of the local authority to award the sponsorship deal?

Councillor Brown, Cabinet Member for Children & Young People, will reply.

(h) Ms L Ogmore

"This local authority purports to be 'a council the city deserves', yet once again vital front-line services are being targeted. Within the CYPT, despite flimsy claims from the Coalition government, it is the front-line workers who are at risk, and almost all are women on lower salary scales. Moreover, citizens and service users most deeply affected are young people and now pre-school children!

What did our city do to deserve this and how can the BHCC's strapline be justified if this trend is to continue with the closure of Bright Start?"

Councillor Brown, Cabinet Member for Children & Young People, will reply.

(i) Ms J Statham

"The report Agenda Item 34 presented 11th October is flimsy - literally and metaphorically. Could the councillor(s) substantiate claims therein by providing:

i) details of all subsidies from CYPT budget for comparison;
ii) revised figures showing how subsidy/deficit reduction with a) 10% increase in fees and b) full occupancy rate;
iii) justification that the future of this city and Bright Start attendees will be best served by having another library, art gallery or museum instead of pre-school nursery provision
iv) evidence that £12K is a meaningful overspend in the overall budget;
v) the difference between bottom and top end of staff pay scales"

Councillor Brown, Cabinet Member for Children & Young People, will reply.

(j) Mr D Jones

"Could the councillor please explain why the report to CYP Cabinet Member meeting on the 11th October on Bright Start nursery contained misleading information such as the cost of building work, some of which wasn't seen as necessary a year ago, and was only £5000? It appears the building work will happen regardless of what will happen to the nursery in April 2011."

Councillor Brown, Cabinet Member for Children & Young People, will reply.