



**QUESTION TIME**

**Questions from Members to the Leader, Cabinet Members, Chairs of Committees or Members appointed to represent the Council on a Joint Committee in accordance with Chapter 2, Part 2 (Rule 14) of the Council's Constitution.**

There are 2 questions to the Leader and 7 questions to Cabinet Members, Committee Chairs and Member appointed to represent the Council on a Joint Committee.

**QUESTIONS FROM MEMBERS TO THE LEADER**

**1. From Councillor Anderson**

"At full council in November you advised council that an investigation was ongoing into Cllr Kiely's attendance and public statements, and stated that you were no longer prepared to "defend the indefensible". Has the investigation been completed and can you advise the chamber of what action is being taken as a result?"

**2. From Councillor Anderson**

"In tackling the budget deficit left by the last Government, Thurrock council basically has two choices. It can either reduce council spending to balance the books, or raise council tax on local residents by enough to avoid making any cuts at all. Which approach has the administration chosen to adopt in its current draft budget?"

**QUESTIONS FROM MEMBERS TO CABINET MEMBERS, COMMITTEE CHAIRS AND MEMBERS APPOINTED TO REPRESENT THE COUNCIL ON A JOINT COMMITTEE**

**1. From Councillor Wendy Curtis to Councillor Gerrish, Cabinet Member for Education & Children's Social Care**

Thurrock Council are committed to contribute an annual amount of £150,000 annually to the Lea Valley Water Park.

Could the Portfolio Holder tell me how long this contract will continue and how many schools within Thurrock have used this facility in the past year and are there any schools participating this coming year?

**2. From Councillor Halden to Councillor Gerrish, Cabinet Member for Education & Children's Social Care**

Is the cabinet member satisfied that his department is making the best placements for our young people in care?

**3. From Councillor Kelly to Councillor Wendy Curtis, as Chair of the Health & Wellbeing Overview & Scrutiny Committee**

"On New Year's Day 2013 BBC News reported that a known sex offender has been working in nearby Southend Hospital, despite a CRB check being undertaken by the worker's agency employer. What will the chair of Health Overview and Scrutiny do to ensure that processes in Thurrock hospitals are robust and eliminate the potential for sex offenders working in our hospitals?"

**4. From Councillor Ojetola to Councillor P Smith, Cabinet Member for Central Services**

"I read with interest another recent success at Havering council in prosecuting a staff member for housing benefit fraud, and other work related fraud issues. Could the portfolio holder outline what provision Thurrock council has for the prevention and detection of any type of fraud by staff or councillors?"

**5. From Councillor Johnson to Councillor P Smith, Cabinet Member for Central Services**

"Under what circumstances would the council write off money owed by a person, and could the portfolio holder outline what happens when a person who has money written off by the council is traced?"

**6. From Councillor Gledhill to Councillor Morris-Cook, Cabinet Member for Housing**

"Could the portfolio holder outline how much the authority has paid out to repair properties damaged by an outgoing tenant over the past 2 years, what is done to recover that cost, and how much money has actually been recovered as a result?"

**7. From Councillor Anderson to Councillor Morris-Cook, Cabinet Member for Housing**

"On Sunday 13th January, one of the main security doors at the Freemans Court OAP complex failed. It required interventions from both elected members and senior council officers before an urgent repair was initiated.

Does the portfolio holder feel that the response provided by the council's out of hours service to vulnerable residents is adequate?"

**8. From Councillor Hebb to Councillor Wendy Curtis, as Chair of the Health & Wellbeing Overview & Scrutiny Committee**

"Following recent bad press, and a critical report by the CQC into paediatric care, residents of Thurrock are understandably concerned about the performance of Basildon and Thurrock University Hospitals (BTUH). What actions will you and your committee be taking to hold the hospital to account over promises of improvement, and when do you next expect to bring representatives of hospital management in front of the committee to update members on progress?"