

Croydon Council

For General Release

REPORT TO:	COUNCIL 18 July 2016
AGENDA ITEM NO:	7
SUBJECT:	CROYDON QUESTION TIME: A) PUBLIC QUESTIONS B) LEADER AND CABINET QUESTIONS.
LEAD OFFICER:	Head of Democratic Services and Scrutiny
WARDS:	ALL
CORPORATE PRIORITY/POLICY CONTEXT: The Business Reports of the Leader and Cabinet are prepared in accordance with the Council Procedure Rules at Part 4A of the Constitution.	
Information Report This report covers the procedure for Public Questions and Councillors Questions to the Leader and Cabinet	

1. EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

- 1.1 This report outlines the process
- public questions;
 - questions to the Leader and Cabinet from Councillors

2. BACKGROUND

- 2.1 Part 4A of the Constitution details the process that allows for the Leader and Cabinet Members to take oral questions. The Question Time is split into two parts, public questions and Councillors questions to the Leader and Cabinet.

Public Questions

- 2.2 Public questions can be asked of the Leader or Cabinet Members on issues of policy at the Meeting as set out within the Constitution Part 4 A , Sections 3.16 - 3.20. Any questions of a purely factual or of a detailed nature shall be noted and shall receive a written response within 3 weeks following the meeting. The responses shall be published on the Council's website.
- 2.3 Public Questions shall only be taken at Ordinary Council meetings and shall be allocated a total time of 30 minutes. This time frame shall include both the response by the relevant Cabinet Member or Leader.

- 2.4 The Mayor has absolute discretion to decline to allow any question to be dealt with under this procedure on the grounds that it addresses matters that would be inappropriate to consider at the meeting, including where the questions being asked are repetitive or have already been addressed.
- 2.5 Questions shall be dealt with in the order in which members of the public seated in the public gallery are invited by the Mayor to address the Leader or Cabinet Member. Members of the public invited to put their questions will also be permitted to ask a single supplementary question but shall do so only if called upon by the Mayor to do so as this may be subject to time constraints.
- 2.6 The Mayor may also accept questions from Members of the Public submitted by email to the designated email address by 12noon on the Friday prior to an ordinary Council meeting. The Mayor will put questions received by email to the relevant Cabinet Member and, where a number of questions are received on the same subject, the Mayor may put a summary of those questions instead.

Leader and Cabinet Questions:

- 2.7 This item is to enable Members to ask questions of the Leader and Cabinet on issues of policy. Any questions of a purely factual or of a detailed nature shall be noted and shall receive a written response within 3 weeks following the meeting. The responses shall be published on the Council’s website.
- 2.8 Questions which relate to a current planning or licensing matter or any matter relating to an individual or entity in respect of which that individual or entity has a right of recourse to a review or right of appeal conferred by or under any enactment shall not be permitted. In addition, questions shall not be received or responded to where they pertain to anticipated or ongoing litigation, conciliation or mediation or any employment or personnel related issues or disputes.
- 2.9 The Leader shall be the first to respond to questions under this item and the total time allocated to questions by Members to, and responses from the Leader, shall be 15 minutes. The first two minutes of the Leader’s 15 minute slot may be used by the Leader to make any announcements.
- 2.10 Cabinet Members, divided up into three ‘pools’ of three Members each, shall thereafter respond to questions by other Members of the Council. The total time allocated to each ‘pool’ of Cabinet Members shall be 30 minutes. The three Cabinet Members shall each be permitted to use two minutes of this 30 minute slot to make announcements.
- 2.11 The ‘pools’ for this meeting will be as follows

Pool 1

Name	Portfolio
Councillor Alison Butler	Deputy Leader and Cabinet Member for Homes, Regeneration and Planning
Councillor Hamida Ali	Cabinet Member for Communities, Safety and Justice
Councillor Mark Watson	Cabinet Member for Economy and Jobs

Pool 2

Name	Portfolio
Councillor Stuart Collins	Deputy Leader and Cabinet Member for Clean, Green Croydon
Councillor Stuart King	Cabinet Member for Transport and Environment
Councillor Simon Hall	Cabinet Member for Finance and Treasury

Pool 3

Name	Portfolio
Councillor Timothy Godfrey	Cabinet Member for Culture, Leisure and Sport
Councillor Alisa Flemming	Cabinet Member for Children, Young People & Learning
Councillor Louisa Woodley	Cabinet Member for Families, Health and Social Care

2.12 Representatives of political groups may give advance notice to the Council Solicitor by 12noon on the Friday preceding an ordinary Council Meeting, the names of the first two Members of their respective political group that they wish the Mayor to call to ask a question of each Member of the Cabinet, including the Leader of the Council.

2.13 After those Members have been called, the Mayor will call Members that indicate they have a question, with a presumption of inviting questions from as many different Members as possible. Each Member asking a question will also be allowed to ask a supplementary question.

3. Cabinet Member Bulletins

3.1 The Leader of the Council and Cabinet Members may submit bulletins to be included in the Council agenda papers for this item. Bulletins may summarise the business undertaken by a Cabinet Member since the last ordinary meeting of the Council. The bulletins can be found at Appendix 1.

CONTACT OFFICER: Kate Norton, Senior Members Services Manager, Ext 63876.

BACKGROUND DOCUMENTS: None