

**WRITTEN QUESTIONS FROM MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC**

A period of not more than fifteen minutes shall be allowed at each ordinary meeting for questions submitted by members of the public who either live or work in the area of the authority.

**1) The following written question has been received from Charles Harrison.**

**"TRANSITION PLAN - POST MEARS**

The Committee's decision on 26 Sept 2018 seems to strike a sensible balance between a single contract and direct works and should create great opportunities for using local resources.

However, changes will be needed to transition from the Council's current "light touch" construction management approach to manage this strategy efficiently, consistently and transparently.

What are the Council's priorities and plans for developing:

- Organisation chart(s), job specifications, and divisions of responsibility
- Recruitment and training policies and processes
- Procurement and contract strategies for each work category
- Processes for scoping, instructing, authorisation, monitoring and payment
- Systems for managing and communicating asset information"

**2) The following written question has been received from Jane Thorp**

"Leaseholders in Hove are being billed for major works to their block of over £100,000 per leaseholder. Leaseholders all over the city are being ruined by these huge bills. By definition, owner-occupiers of council flats are on low incomes. The council has failed to repoint external brickwork or to do concrete repairs for decades, which they are legally required to do. How can they now expect the working poor and pensioners to pay for this neglect?"

**3) The following question has been received from David Pearce**

"Some leaseholders in Hanover are facing bills of £44,000 each. The sale of a flat collapsed because this figure was supplied by the council for a conveyancing search. None of the leaseholders had been told about this cost or what works were planned. The non-resident leaseholders still have not been told. Why are leaseholders treated so contemptuously by this council?"

**4) The following written question has been received from Dave Spafford.**

“Independent surveyors employed by leaseholders on different estates consistently report that the works costs are hugely overpriced and that many works can be better met by repairs. They consistently say that the measurements used to cost a job are not precise or adequate because a proper “measured survey” has not been carried out. Their recommendations are never considered by the council during the consultation period. Why not?”

**5) The following written question has been received from Izabela Rogalska.**

“The Housing Revenue Account draws its funds from rents and service charges. What is the amount and percentage of the Housing Revenue Account used in this financial year to date to fund legal cases taken by the council against their leaseholders, such as the recent case against Bristol Estate?”

**6) The following written question has been received from Tony Worsfold.**

“Repayment options for major works include a charge put on the property against its eventual sale. This is delightfully called the **Non-Repayment** Equity Loan. The charge rises proportionately with the market value of the property. This could very well be seen as the council clawing their property back. How can the council demonstrate that this is not its intention?”

**7) The following written question has been received from Amanda Lane**

“BHCC has consistently blocked the Leaseholders Action Group from reaching other leaseholders by refusing to pass on information via their email database. The council claims that their IT system is not up to the task. How can such a large organisation lack the skills to overcome this, or is it simply that the council does not want leaseholders to have a voice?”

**8) The following written question has been received from Julia Greenslade**

“Can this council ensure that Kendal Court will have, in a timely manner, a working facility by provision of a launderette for the use of residents or that it be allowed for individuals to have a washing machine plumbed into their accommodation?”

**9) The following written question has been received from Stephanie Crechriou**

**Hyde/BHCC Contract**

“As a result of the Budget announcement regarding the HRA cap and the response by Councillor Meadows to Councillor Mears at the last meeting of full

Council could the Chairperson confirm the withdrawal of the Council from this contract?”

**10) The following written question has been received from Amanda Bishop**

**Selective Licensing Scheme**

Could the Committee also report at what regularity the Council is checking the database of Rogue Landlords and Property Agents since the Housing and Planning Act 2016 (Banning Order Offences) Regulations 2018 came into force on 6 April 2018 and has the Council made, or considered, use of this legislation?”

**11) The following written question has been received from Miriam Binder**

**Council Properties and Social Rents**

“Could the Committee confirm that the sale of 499 council properties (previously accommodation at Social Rent levels) since 2011 to Brighton and Hove Seaside Community Homes was on the basis that rents were doubled? Have properties other than those sold to Seaside Homes since 2011 also been sold to Housing Associations or other organisations on the same basis? If yes, how many and to which landlords?”

**12) The following written question has been received from Daniel Harris**

**Deaths in Emergency and Temporary Accommodation**

Given the lack of information and detail in the report (Agenda item 41) will the Chairperson give a commitment that a future report includes;

- Life expectancy data covering residents, the wider homeless population & the population as a whole
- Information on all deaths over the last 2 years in Emergency and Temporary accommodation including details of the properties and those banned or evicted from Emergency and Temporary Accommodation
- Results of an independent survey of, and consultation with, residents in the properties involved
- Proposed changes in procedures and protocols to prevent unnecessary deaths in the future

**13) The following written question has been received from Maria Garrett-Gotch**

**Buckley Close**

“Is it a true representation of Council priorities relating to the environment and the needs of residents with disabilities that this development includes 11 parking bays for 12 properties with one flat that is wheelchair accessible? Could the Chairperson also explain the absence of any properties at Social Rent?”

