

COUNCIL MEETING – 22 JANUARY 2020

CABINET QUESTION TIME

1.	<p><u>Question from Councillor R J Poulter to the Cabinet Member for Safer Chelmsford</u></p> <p>The Council has announced that 'In respect of our climate and ecology emergency declared in July 2019 we have looked at areas where we can eliminate or reduce single use plastics within our organisation'. One of the areas identified is that the Council will no longer be providing plastic dog waste bags.</p> <p>In view of the damage to health and the environment that dog waste causes and in view of the cessation of the supply of biodegradable dog waste bags, what advice does the Council have for its residents?</p> <p>Cabinet Member to respond</p>
2.	<p><u>Question from Councillor I Wright to the Leader of the Council</u></p> <p>Whilst accepting the instruction has been withdrawn I must ask "Why the Leader of the Council, without any prior consultation or discussion - other than at the informal Mayoral Working Party - instructed Officers to advise members that prayers would no longer be held at the start of a Full Council meeting. It is discourteous to all sides of the Chamber to issue such an instruction without having allowed all members the opportunity to make comment and understand the reasons for changing the present long standing practice?"</p> <p>I accept the constitution does not specifically cover this point but Councils have the right to hold prayers under the Local Government (Religious Observances) Act of 2015 though this does not oblige them to do so.</p> <p>This Authority has now referred the issue to a special Governance Committee meeting for enquiry and it will be the only item on the agenda. This concerns me as the meeting will incur unnecessary expense to Council taxpayers as it will be held after normal office hours causing inconvenience to staff and members. This Council is committed to reducing the carbon footprint in the City but this additional meeting will force members to travel into Chelmsford and is counterproductive. Would the leader not consider seeking all members views by using the simple process of collating comments by e-mail with the results open to all. This would allow all members being able to contribute; save costs (including travel expenses) and reduce our carbon footprint.</p> <p>Leader to respond</p>

3.	<p><u>Question from Councillor I Wright to the Cabinet Member for Safer Chelmsford</u></p> <p>Can the Leader inform this Council what steps he intends to take to improve the safety of pedestrians in the City Centre from people unlawfully riding cycles and the increasing problem of (in the main young people) riding electric scooters often at high speed? These cycles and scooters are seen on a daily basis and make shopping especially hazardous to the elderly, those with a disability or children.</p> <p>Cabinet Member to respond</p>
4.	<p><u>Question from Councillor E Sampson to the Cabinet Member for Fairer Chelmsford</u></p> <p>Since the Homelessness Strategy and Affordable Housing working groups were established earlier this year, what if any changes have there been to levels of homelessness and the supply of affordable housing?</p> <p>Cabinet Member to respond</p>