

25 January 2017

Ordinary Council

Public Questions

Report of: *Philip Ruck – Head of Paid Service*

Wards Affected: *All Wards*

This report is: *Public*

1. Executive Summary

- 1.1 In accordance with the Council's Constitution, a member of the public resident within the Borough may ask a maximum of two questions relating to the business of the Council providing notice has been received by 10.00am two working days before the relevant meeting.
- 1.2 If the person wishing to ask the question is not present at the meeting when the item is called the question(s) will be deleted from the list of questions to be asked.
- 1.3 Every question asked pursuant to rule 11.1 of the Constitution shall be put and answered without discussion but the Member to whom the question has been put may decline to answer. An answer may take the form of a direct oral answer at the Council meeting or where there has been insufficient time to research an answer, a written answer will be sent to the questioner.
- 1.4 At the time of publication of the agenda two questions had been received which were allowed by the Mayor, as follows:
- 1.5 Mrs Gearon-Simm's question:

'A private company, Essex Cares, enables adults with learning disabilities to learn in a work-place environment, from which place they can then move on to the commercial sector such as Costa, McDonalds and care homes.

Will the café facility, which is, at present, in the library in Brentwood shopping centre and which provides opportunities for such training to happen, be transferred to the town hall if the library is moved there?'

1.6 Ms Smith's question:

'What is an acceptable level of public engagement with Brentwood council concerning local issues and how is this currently measured / judged, and what is the council doing to try to improve local public engagement?'

I ask this because of the very poor attendance at local council meetings, and because if asked why they do not attend council meetings, local people have been heard to say "there is no point".'

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