

**22 October 2014**

**Ordinary Council**

**Questions from the Public**

**Report of:** *Jo-Anne Ireland – Acting Chief Executive*

**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 from Mrs Gearon-Simm, as follows:

1. ' For the majority of people who hear of the Bedroom Tax and who are not affected by it, the idea that people in council housing should only be able to have a 'spare room', if they pay extra rent for it, can at first sound seductively sensible.

If Brentwood Borough Council believes that this is sensible, will the Bedroom Tax be continued by the present administration'.

2. 'The shadow Chancellor, Ed Balls, has promised to cut ministerial pay by 5% if the Labour party are elected to government in 2015.

On 11 June 2014 at the Ordinary Council meeting under Item 15, the majority of Councillors voted themselves a 1% pay rise.

Many people have not had a pay rise for a long time.

Are there any councillors in the chamber who would be prepared to state in public that they have not taken this pay rise?'

**Report Author Contact Details:**

**Name:** Jean Sharp

**Telephone:** 01277 312655

**E-mail:** jean.sharp@brentwood.gov.uk