

Reigate and Banstead Borough Council
Meeting of Council 28 March 2024
Questions by Members

Verbal responses to be given at the meeting			
	Question by	To be answered by	Subject
1.	Councillor Smith	Councillor (Andrew) King, the Executive Member for Commercial & Community Assets	Commercial property occupancy
2.	Councillor Essex	Councillor (Andrew) King, the Executive Member for Commercial & Community Assets	The Harlequin & RAAC
3.	Councillor Chandler	Councillor Lewanski, the Executive Member for Finance, Governance & Organisation	Net Zero Asset Managers Initiative
4.	Councillor Ritter	Councillor Neame, the Executive Member for Housing & Support	Homeless accommodation
5.	Councillor Khan	Councillor Biggs, the Leader of the Council	Safer Streets Funding
6.	Councillor Booton	Councillor Biggs, the Leader of the Council	Animal Welfare
7.	Councillor Fairhurst	Councillor Michalowski, the Executive Member for Place, Planning & Regulatory Services	Reigate Priory Junior School
8.	Councillor Proudfoot	Councillor Michalowski, the Executive Member for Place, Planning & Regulatory Services	Biodiversity Net Gain Habitat Banks

Councillor Smith will ask the **Executive Member for Commercial & Community Assets, Councillor (Andrew) King**, the following question:

Question 1: Commercial property occupancy

Can Cllr King please give us an update on the current occupancy rate of the Council's Commercial Property Portfolio?

Councillor Essex will ask the **Executive Member for Commercial & Community Assets, Councillor (Andrew) King**, the following question:

Question 2: The Harlequin and RAAC

The Warwick Quadrant in Redhill Town Centre is noted as having Reinforced Autoclaved Aerated Concrete (RAAC) with both Redhill Library and the Harlequin being shut since last year. I understand that the library and the Harlequin complex are rented from the building owner by Surrey County Council And Reigate and Banstead Borough Council respectively.

On 19th March 2024 the County Council confirmed that a Stage 1B Visual Inspection of the RAAC was undertaken on Friday 3 November 2023 and further on-going monthly monitoring inspections on 21 November 2023, 9 January 2024, and 14 February 2024 and have instructed a Stage 2 Intrusive Survey works with enabling works now started to remove the ceilings and fully expose the RAAC panels and a further contractor due to conduct a Measured Survey and 3D Laser scan of the RAAC before the Structural Engineer can inspect and report on the condition of the RAAC and confirm what remedial works are required. This is scheduled to be completed by end of April 2024. The County Council have now made arrangements for a temporary library to operate from 22 April 2024 at Consort House in Redhill.

Please can you confirm what Reigate and Banstead Borough Council has done with regard to the similar RAAC issue in the Harlequin, in particular when its stage 2 surveys are due to be completed and what additional temporary facilities are planned in Redhill prior to this important council facility being fully reopened.

Councillor Chandler will ask the **Executive Member for Finance, Governance & Organisation, Councillor Lewanski**, the following question:

Question 3: Net Zero Asset Managers Initiative

During the Treasury Management training for Council's Overview & Scrutiny Committee members earlier this month, Members heard there would not be a significant difference to yields and returns if RBBC prioritised money funds that were signatories to the Net Zero Asset Managers Initiative (NZAMI). Will this Council agree to only investing in money funds that are signatories to NZAMI?

Councillor Ritter will ask the **Executive Member for Housing & Support, Councillor Neame**, the following question:

Question 4: Homeless accommodation

This winter thirty people were accommodated for at least one night over the 2.5 month period that the Renewed Hope winter night shelter ran. This offers a hot meal and bed for the night in church halls around the Borough staffed by volunteers. Many of the mostly single male guests are now in some form of accommodation but some are still homeless.

Given that the option of delivering a Council run supported housing scheme for single homeless people has been deemed unviable what is the forward plan to help these most vulnerable residents with supported housing in the Borough?

Councillor Khan will ask the **Leader of the Council, Councillor Biggs**, the following question:

Question 5: Safer Streets Funding

All councillors I am sure were shocked to hear that two 15-year-olds were arrested in connection with the stabbing outside McDonalds in Redhill earlier this month. Incidents like this raise the anxiety levels of some residents. It is important to ensure that our streets are made safer.

The £265k successfully bid from the government's Safer Streets fund was allocated towards a range of measures including, informed improvements in the town centre, supporting YMCA's new bus, ASB training and "addressing specific areas and behaviours that are of concern to residents".

With particular focus on Youth Services, especially engaging with vulnerable young people, if another similar successful bid were made in the future, would this Council spend the money differently to ensure our streets are safer?

Councillor Booton will ask the **Leader of the Council, Councillor Biggs**, the following question:

Question 6: Animal Welfare

The RSPCA have just launched their "Local Government Manifesto: A Local Voice for Every Animal". What plans does this Council have for future actions that would align to the manifesto's five core commitments and more broadly, what is this Council currently doing to promote animal welfare within the borough?

Councillor Fairhurst will ask the **Executive Member for Place, Planning & Regulatory Services, Councillor Michalowski**, the following question:

Question 7: Reigate Priory Junior School

The Surrey County Council Cabinet has recently agreed to establish a working group to explore primary school provision in Reigate, whilst the viability of the application to move the Reigate Priory Junior School to Woodhatch Place will be examined again.

What is the position of Reigate & Banstead Borough Council in relation to a proposed move of Reigate Priory Junior School to Woodhatch Place?

Councillor Proudfoot will ask the **Executive Member for Place, Planning & Regulatory Services, Councillor Michalowski**, the following question:

Question 8: Biodiversity Net Gain Habitat Banks

On Tuesday 19th March 2024, Surrey County Council confirmed that a joint procurement is being undertaken with the Districts and Boroughs for a study looking at the potential for sixty sites across the county to be used as Biodiversity Net Gain (BNG) 'Habitat Banks' BNG offsets. The Surrey County Council internal Biodiversity Net Gain working group is developing a habitat bank of local sites registered to act as a trading platform for the purchasing and selling of BNG credits. Surrey County Council have confirmed that Reigate and Banstead are taking part in this procurement and have put forward six sites to be included in the study. Please can you confirm which sites Reigate & Banstead Borough Council have put forward.