

## **MEMBER QUESTIONS**

**COUNCIL 9 MAY 2024**

### **Question from Councillor Rosemary Dartnall**

A Procedural Question about Full Council Meetings

I have made some enquiries and it would seem that for some time a procedure has been adopted at full council only, whereby members' questions and answers are not read out. The member is simply asked if they have a supplementary question, following the written response supplied.

At all other committee meetings, members' ask their submitted questions following the constitution (15.2, 15.4, 15.7). The procedure employed at full council leads to a very disjointed question process which members of the public attending or listening online, would find strange and opaque.

When, how and why was this modification made? Can we please adopt forthwith the same procedure for members' questions at full council used in all other committee settings?

### **Response from Councillor Lezley Picton , Leader and Portfolio Holder for Policy and Strategy, Improvement and Communications**

It is my understanding that the Council has adopted the approach of publishing member questions and answers with the agenda since the establishment of the Unitary Authority in 2009 and this is specifically provided for in paragraph 15.2 of the Council Procedure Rules. It is also the reason why 12 working days' notice of a question is required by paragraph 15.4 (unless its urgent). However, I do agree that the wording of paragraph 15.7 suggests the question will be asked at the meeting. Given that it is now some two years since we introduced the new arrangements regarding word counts and notice periods etc, I think it would be appropriate for the Group Leaders to review the whole issue of member, and indeed public questions, within the Constitution Working Group."