

Report to Council

24 October 2023

Subject:	Written Questions
Director:	Surjit Tour – Director of Law and Governance and Monitoring Officer

The following written questions have been received: -

7(a) From Councillor Bhullar to the Cabinet Member for Environment and Highways

Can I ask the Cabinet member for Highways what the plans are for road gritting and clearing through the winter months that will ensure that main roads are kept clear that will keep traffic moving across Sandwell.

7(b) From Councillor Taylor to the Cabinet Member for Housing and Build Environment

We have many residents across Sandwell who are living in the private rented sector, we have many good Landlords, but we also have Landlords that are increasing rents and issuing Section 21's causing homelessness cases leaving our residents in a desperate situation. Can I ask the Cabinet Member for Housing how this council is managing with the increase in people who now require a place to live?

7(c) From Councillor Chidley to the Cabinet Member for Leisure and Tourism

After the success of last year's events especially Bonfire Night at Sandwell Valley and the Light Switch on's in our towns, can I ask the cabinet member for Leisure and Tourism what events are planned in Sandwell this winter.



7(d) From Councillor Khan to the Leader of the Council

I understand there is a policy in place in regards to pets as prizes. Can I ask the Leader of the Council, the portfolio holder for animal welfare, what the council is doing to ensure this policy is adhered to and what actions will be taken against the perpetrators of such offences?

7(e) From Councillor Giles to the Leader of the Council

I recently read an open letter that you wrote to Robert Jenerick Conservative MP regarding another private hotel that has been acquired by the government for people seeking asylum in the UK. Can I ask the Leader - if the council gave permission to the government to do this?

7(f) From Councillor Hinchliff to the Cabinet Member for Children, Education and Young People

Can I congratulate the team on achieving the grading of good in the recent Area SEND Ofsted inspection. This is a real achievement at a time when we are seeing a national increase in the need for support for children with SEND and can I ask what the next steps will be put in place to address the recommendations made in the report?

7(g) From Councillor Tipper to the Cabinet Member for Housing and Built Environment

At the last cabinet meeting cabinet approved the Borough of Sanctuary strategy and the application was due to go to panel. Can the cabinet member for Housing and Built Environment provide an update on the application?

7(h) From Councillor Gill to the Cabinet Member for Regeneration and WMCA

As a result of Lloyds Bank, Wilko and Hallmark all leaving Great Bridge High Street in the last few months for a variety of reasons, I am campaigning with local residents to Save our High Street in Great Bridge. I'd like to know what is the Council currently doing to support the sustainability of small businesses in Sandwell and what measures do the Council have planned to incentivise more small businesses in Great Bridge, including potential grant scheme for shop front refurbishment or business rate relief schemes?



7(i) From Councillor Dunn to the Cabinet Member for Environment and Highways

I've raised several times during Council meetings the issues that Tividale residents face when it comes to road safety. On as basis that is far too often, residents express to me their concerns about blocked pavements, dangerous corners and problematic parking. Can I please ask the cabinet member to:

- 1) Explain the current process of implementing parking resolutions within the Council.
- 2) If they will arrange a meeting with myself and the Neighbourhood Police Team to discuss strategies to better the system for the safety of our communities.

