

Council/Committee:	Full Council
Report Title	Member's Question Time
Date of Meeting	17 March 2026
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The following written questions have been received:-

6(a) Councillor Luke Giles to the Cabinet Member for Housing and Planning – HMO Restrictions

Following the unanimous passing of the motion brought forward by myself and Councillor Maycock regarding restrictions on HMOs, could the Cabinet Member provide a clear timeline for when these measures will be implemented? Recent issues involving two problematic HMOs have had a significant impact on residents and our communities, so clarity on the expected timeframe is urgently needed.

6(b) Councillor Parbinder Kaur to the Cabinet Member for Environment and Highways – Pavement Parking

Residents across Smethwick Ward continue to raise serious concerns about vehicles parking on pavements, obstructing access for wheelchair users, parents with pushchairs, elderly residents and those with visual impairments.

In London, pavement parking is enforceable and Penalty Charge Notices can be issued. If London boroughs can issue fines for pavement obstruction, can the Cabinet Member explain:

1. Why is similar enforcement not routinely applied in Sandwell?
2. Does Sandwell Council currently issue Penalty Charge Notices for pavement obstruction?
3. If not, what steps is the Council taking to seek stronger enforcement powers?
4. What proactive measures are being introduced to protect pedestrian access in residential hotspot areas?

Residents want to see clear action to keep pavements safe and accessible for everyone.

6(c) Councillor Luke Cotterill to the Cabinet Member for Adult Services, Health and Wellbeing – Cancer rehabilitation in Sandwell

Before Christmas I attended a session with the brilliant Cancer Kickers who are a walking football and social group for people who are, or have been, affected by Cancer. One of the constant themes was the lack of free Cancer rehabilitation in Sandwell. Physical rehabilitation can be a vital tool in recovering from Cancer but can often prove expensive for people at times when they may have already lost income. I would therefore like to ask that Cabinet explore the viability of providing free physical rehabilitation for people recovering from Cancer in partnership with the NHS.

6(d) Councillor Richard Jeffcoat to the Cabinet Member for Environment and Highways – National Flags

I ask that consideration be given to the reservation of certain prominent areas in each town, not just on public buildings, for the display of national flags. We retain unauthorised flags on lampposts across our borough from a campaign in August last year, and an island in Tipton has seen a renewal of flags in recent days. Given the importance to many Sandwell residents of patriotic display, might each town have new designated areas where official flags may be flown? This would be part of a borough-wide strategy to remove unauthorised attachments to street furniture, which can be a threat to public safety.