

7.7 Questions by Electors

General

Any elector registered within the East Riding of Yorkshire may ask a question of the Leader of the Council or Chairman of any Overview and Scrutiny or Non-Executive Committee or Sub-Committee at ordinary meetings of the Council.

Number of Questions

No person may submit more than one question at a meeting and no more than four questions in total may be submitted.

Notice of Question

Questions must be submitted in writing to the Democratic Services Manager by 4pm not less than eight clear working days before the meeting.

Scope of Questions

Questions must relate to the functions of the Council and must relate to matters which affect the East Riding as a whole. Multiple point questions shall not be permitted.

The Chief Executive, in consultation with the Chairman of the Council will disallow any question which is either:

- not relevant to the functions of the Council;
- defamatory or offensive,
- duplicates other questions received or is on the same subject matter;
- relates to any non-determined application submitted to the Council;
- cannot be answered without disclosing material which is exempt or confidential within the meaning of the Local Government Act 1972 as amended;
- is of a purely personal nature;
- relates to a complaint; or
- involves unreasonable costs and effort in order to provide an answer.

Order of Questions

Questions shall be put and answered in the order they were received by the Democratic Services Manager.

Reference of Questions to The Cabinet or a Committee

There shall be no discussion upon the question or answers by any Councillor. A Councillor may move that a matter raised by the question be referred to The Cabinet or appropriate Committee or Sub-Committee. Such a Motion shall be moved, seconded and voted on without discussion.

Answers

A person to whom a question has been put may:

- give a direct verbal answer;
- where the desired information is contained within a publication of the Council or in any Report or Minutes previously submitted to Council, refer to that document; or
- give a reply in writing.

(The answer shall distinguish between the policies of the Council and any personal views of the Member answering).

The elector may nominate another representative (who must also be an elector registered within the East Riding) to ask the question on their behalf if due to unforeseen circumstances they are unable to attend the meeting to ask the question themselves. The Democratic Services Manager must be notified of this by 10am on the day of the Council meeting, otherwise the question will be withdrawn.