

COUNTY COUNCIL MEETING

15 October 2009

**Question by Mr M Harrison to the
Cabinet Member for Environment, Highways & Waste**

Firstly may I welcome Mr Chard to the new post as Cabinet Member for Environment, Highways and Waste, a hard act to follow.

You will have received some photographs from me from my own particular division which have been with KHS Ashford for some weeks now and still no action. I am of the opinion that unless some urgent works are carried out in the very near future there will be serious accidents.

My question to Mr Chard is “Will he please give an explanation as to why the standard of our highway signage and white/yellow lines is in such a deplorable condition throughout the County?”

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**Question by Mrs A Allen to the
Cabinet Member for Adult Social Services**

Would the Cabinet Member for Adult Social Services update me on the level of facility and provision put in place since the Queen Elizabeth Resource Centre in Dartford closed on 17 October 2008 and whether service users and carers continue to be involved in the ongoing development of these various facilities? Could he also provide some comment on the numbers of people using these facilities and the feedback being provided?

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**Question by Mr M J Vye To The
Cabinet Member For Children, Families And Education**

Will the Cabinet Member for Children, Families and Education provide the Council with a list of the Academy projects under serious discussion in the county; explain the criteria adopted by the CFE Directorate for deciding whether or not it will support an Academy project; state whether these include the assurance of a seat for the Local Authority on the governing body; and a guarantee of collaboration with the Local Authority and other schools, especially with regards to admissions?

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**Question by Mr G Koowaree to the
Cabinet Member for Children, Families & Education**

Will the Cabinet Member for Children, Families & Education provide for Members of the Council a list of

1. the weekly allowance KCC paid to foster carers,
2. the weekly allowance KCC paid to kinship (family & friends)
3. the Government-recommended minimum allowances

for the last 5 financial years (2005-06 to 2009-10) and confirm it is only in the current financial year that foster carers in Kent have for the first time received the Government-recommended minimum allowances and in previous years have been receiving the lowest payments in the South East?

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**Question by Mr I Chittenden to the
Cabinet Member for Environment, Highways & Waste**

Following the removal of the Highways Advisory Board, the recent cancellation of the meeting of the Kent Transport Board and the continuing rumours that Joint Transport Boards are also to be discontinued, how is the portfolio holder proposing to ensure the input into the strategic highways and transportation planning decision making process of the views of Local Members, Borough Council Members and members of the public?

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**Question by Mrs T Dean to the
Leader of the Council**

Will the Leader please set out the process of the review of Kent TV conducted by external consultants, including who is being invited to give their views, and will he say when the review will be available to all Members.

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Question by Mr M Robertson to the
Cabinet Member for Highways, Environment & Waste

A recent report by the Environment Agency has indicated that Kent's rivers are very badly polluted – in particular the River Medway and the mid Stour between Canterbury and Ashford.

Dr Geoff Meaden, geographer and specialist on Kent's water resources, has said: "Factors affecting pollution of rivers in Kent and Medway include sewage run-off, reduced summer rainfall, poor farming practices, and the heavy demand for drinking water. If we don't clean up the rivers, a variety of species will be damaged, or will not return to our rivers. This would include species such as the otter, kingfishers and water voles."

In the light of this, does the Cabinet Member for the Environment agree with me that there is now a demonstrable need to adjust the ***Kent Environment Strategy*** to take account of these new revelations and, can the Cabinet Member indicate what resources the County Council is able to make available to assist in the clean-up of our rivers?

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**Question by Mr R Brookbank to the
Cabinet Member for Adult Social Services**

Would the Cabinet Member for Social Services please confirm what funding will be available for Age Concern in Kent for the next financial year and thereafter.

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**Question by Mr M J Angell to the
Chairman of Health Overview Scrutiny Committee**

What action is the Health Overview Scrutiny Committee going to take as a result of the cancellation of the Old Ashford Hospital Health Centre project by Eastern and Coastal Primary Care Trust which was intended to form an important role in the Ashford Future arrangements?