



Oversight and Governance

Chief Executive's Department
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CITY COUNCIL – QUESTIONS BY THE PUBLIC

Monday 2 June 2025
2.00 pm
Council House, Plymouth

City Council

5. Questions by the Public

(Pages 1 - 4)

To receive questions from and provide answers to the public in relation to matters which are about something the council is responsible for or something that directly affects people in the city, in accordance with Part B, paragraph 3 of the Constitution.

Questions, of no longer than 50 words, can be submitted to the Democratic Support Unit, Plymouth City Council, Ballard House, West Hoe Road, Plymouth, PL1 3BJ, or email to democraticsupport@plymouth.gov.uk. Any questions must be received at least five complete working days before the meeting.

QUESTION BY MEMBER OF THE PUBLIC

Please return your completed question form to Democratic Support, Plymouth City Council, Ballard House, West Hoe Road, Plymouth, PL1 3BJ or email:

democraticsupport@plymouth.gov.uk

Question to be submitted no later than 5 clear working days before the meeting.

Question submitted by: Klara Wilkins
To the Cabinet Member or Chair for: Councillor Chris Penberthy
Question (to be no longer than 50 words): “What training have Councillors on the Housing and Community Scrutiny Panel received in relation to homelessness legislation? In particular, the Homelessness Code of Guidance.”
To be asked at the next (Council, Cabinet or Planning Committee) Meeting: City Council Date: 02 June 2025
Will you be attending the meeting in person to ask your question? TBC
Response: (for completion by City Council officers and Cabinet Members / Chairs) I have checked and I understand that Housing and Community Scrutiny Panel haven't had training in relation to homelessness legislation including the Homelessness Code of Guidance. Scrutiny panels work at a strategic level within the Council and aren't expected to have detailed operational knowledge across every area of their responsibility. Briefings on detailed operational subjects are given as necessary or at the request of the Scrutiny Chair. There is no legislation that mandates training for Councillors. Scrutiny panels are not decision-making bodies but rather provide scrutiny of officer's work. All members of scrutiny panels are offered an induction before they sit on the panel to ensure they understand the function, their purpose and how to prepare and ask relevant questions. Whilst Cabinet can't require Scrutiny to do anything, I will write to the Chair of the Housing and Community Panel to ask whether there are any areas of training required.

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Question to be submitted no later than 5 clear working days before the meeting.

Question submitted by: Mathew Surtees, Disability Rebellion

To the Cabinet Member or Chair for: Councillor Tudor Evans OBE

Question (to be no longer than 50 words):

Councillor Evans, do you agree that the Labour Government's cuts to welfare will significantly impact the people of Plymouth and are you prepared to publicly condemn the actions of government in relation to these cuts, in the same way that labour councillors have done in other parts of the country?

To be asked at the next (Council, Cabinet or Planning Committee) Meeting: City Council

Date: 02 June 2025

Will you be attending the meeting in person to ask your question?

Yes.

Response: (for completion by City Council officers and Cabinet Members / Chairs)

The government has published a green paper, this is not a decision but the commencement of a consultation that runs until the end of June. In fact the government held a public consultation event on the green paper in Plymouth on 13th May. I would encourage anyone with an opinion to respond to the current consultation.

The government is currently demonstrating that it is carefully considering feedback, including that from Labour Party members and Councillors. The government is being responsible in asking people to engage with them in making submissions to inform decision making and I am sure that all representations will be carefully considered. I would suggest that you should also act responsibly by correctly reporting the facts rather than sharing misinformation.

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