



Public Document Pack

Arun District Council
Civic Centre
Maltravers Road
Littlehampton
West Sussex
BN17 5LF

Tel: (01903 737500)
Fax: (01903) 730442
DX: 57406 Littlehampton
Minicom: 01903 732765

e-mail: committees@arun.gov.uk

Committee Manager - Jane Fulton (Ext 37611)

14 February 2023

POLICY AND FINANCE COMMITTEE

A meeting of the Policy and Finance Committee will be held in **The Council Chamber at The Arun Civic Centre, Maltravers Road, Littlehampton, BN17 5LF** on **Thursday 9 February 2023 at 6.00 pm** and you are requested to attend.

Members: Councillors Gunner (Chair), Pendleton (Vice-Chair), Cooper, Dixon, Goodheart, Oppler, Roberts, Stanley and Walsh.

A G E N D A – SUPPLEMENT – ITEM 5 – PUBLIC QUESTION TIME – SCHEDULE OF QUESTIONS

5. PUBLIC QUESTION TIME (Pages 1 - 2)

To receive questions from the public (for a period of up to 15 minutes)

The schedule of questions to include responses is attached.

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POLICY & FINANCE COMMITTEE – 9 FEBRUARY 2023

AGENDA ITEM 5 – PUBLIC QUESTION TIME

1. From Mr Cosgrove to the Chair

FULL DETAIL OF THE QUESTIONS TO BE ASKED IS DETAILED BELOW

Note, the Chair will:

- invite questions from members of the public who have submitted in writing their questions in line with the Council's Constitution.
- confirm that Public Question Time allows Members of the public to ask one question at a time and that a maximum of one minute is allowed for each question;
- state that questions will be invited in the order in which they have been received and that if there is time remaining from the 15 minutes allowed for Public Question Time, questioners will be allowed to ask a supplementary question.

QUESTION ONE

From Mr Cosgrove to the Chair of the Policy & Finance Committee

Question

On 8th December a 'private briefing' of members of your Committee was held on, as I understand it, the Bognor Regis Centre Levelling-Up scheme or related matter, and that at least one other Councillor, not a member, was excluded, and that there was to be an Agenda item on 13th December meeting of the committee. What constitutional or legal provision allowed for such a briefing away from public scrutiny, surely this was an unacceptable avoidance of the basic and legal concept in local government of openness and accountability?

Response

There is no legal or constitutional requirement for all meetings between Councillors and Officers to take place in public. It is perfectly ordinary for Councillors with each and Officers to have discussions in private. The meeting in question was not a decision making meeting, it was a briefing meeting.

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