

Public Questions

Question A – Onyx Rist, of Rainham, will ask the Leader of the Council, Councillor Maple, the following:

As a non-binary resident, I know the Leader is a dedicated ally, and I welcome his recent statement of solidarity with our trans community. However, local solidarity faces a critical national test. The Government's proposed EHRC draft Code of Practice introduced by his own party's leadership is overtly trans-exclusionary, creating dangerous, unworkable barriers in public life.

What direct conversations has the Leader had with Labour ministers to convey the severe risk this guidance poses to Medway residents? In his answer can he please include how will he use his position to challenge his party's national policy as well as protect our community from its enforcement?

Member Questions

Question B – Councillor Spalding will ask the Portfolio Holder of Climate Change and Strategic Regeneration, Councillor Curry, the following:

Three years ago, Network Rail published its Control Period 7 five year strategy to maintain, renew and improve the UK rail network for April 2024 to March 2031.

This included upgrading the level crossing at Grain. There is a relief road adjacent to the level crossing capable of ensuring continued vehicle traffic flow in the event of a crossing closure, albeit with traffic control measures in place.

Network Rail failed to maintain this relief road to the extent it was and is considered unsafe for vehicles. Because of this and a complete failure by Network Rail to properly plan the works at Grain crossing, it was necessary to completely close the crossing, effectively cutting off Grain Village.

Grain hosts two COMAH sites so Medway Council was faced, at very short notice indeed, with having to implement emergency measures to ensure the safety of local residents. This had a monetary effect to Medway council taxpayers in actual cost and the considerable amount of Council officer hours, not to mention the cost to local businesses.

Given the vast majority of this financial impact was caused by Network Rail failings and could have and indeed should have been avoided, can the Portfolio Holder confirm recompense has been sought from Network Rail and when answering state how much has been recovered?

Question C – Councillor Lawrence will ask the Portfolio Holder for Community Safety, Highways and Enforcement, Councillor Paterson, the following:

In the 2025/2026 financial year the Council repaired fewer potholes than the number of new potholes reported. This is the first time this has happened in at least 10 years. Could the Portfolio Holder state the total number of potholes currently waiting to be repaired, including how many he expects to repair this financial year?