Appendix 1

Public Questions

Question A – William Burvill of Strood, will ask the Leader of the Council, Councillor Maple, the following:

“Does the Leader of the Council have full confidence in the Portfolio Holder for Children’s Services and in the performance of Medway Children’s Services?

In giving his answer he should explain to residents why he believes the service is performing effectively and delivering the high standard of support, safeguarding and accountability that Medway’s children and families deserve.”

Question B – Matthew Broadley of Chatham will ask the Portfolio Holder of Community Safety, Highways and Enforcement, Councillor Paterson, the following:

“Can the Council confirm how many cross-pavement charging solutions (e.g. a cable channel) have been applied for and approved since the scheme started in March 2024?

In giving your response, you should include how Medway Council compares to other local councils.”

Question C – Lauren Thompson of Rochester will ask the Portfolio Holder of Community Safety, Highways and Enforcement, Councillor Paterson, the following:

“Given that Medway Council's Parking Services Annual Report states that parking policy should support local accessibility and consider the needs of local businesses, and given that the Council's parking account generated a surplus of £1.25 million in 2024/25, whilst off-street parking operations generated a surplus of £4.65 million, would the Council consider undertaking a time-limited pilot scheme offering the first hour of parking free in selected town centre car parks?

If the Council does not support such a pilot, in answering the question could it please provide:

- Any evidence, assessments, consultations or previous trials that have examined the impact of free parking on town centre footfall and local business activity in Medway.
- Any data currently held by the Council regarding the relationship between parking charges, visitor numbers, footfall and town centre economic activity.
- The financial modelling used to determine whether a one-hour free parking pilot would or would not be financially viable.

- The criteria that would need to be met for the Council to reconsider such a proposal in the future."

Member Questions

Question D – Councillor Spalding will ask the Leader of the Councillor Maple, the following:

"Medway was recently reminded of how valuable and essential it is to have a more than adequate Fire and Rescue Service.

The derelict building fire at Pier Road required six fire engines and a height vehicle. It took over 18 hours to extinguish.

Elsewhere recently in Medway, a garage on fire needed 3 fire engines, a kitchen alight saw 2 appliances attend and the rescue of the family pets. Outbuildings and trees in flames saw another 3 crewed attendance and not forgetting a certain derelict school was once again in the fire and rescue news. There was a road traffic accident in my own ward which also saw the Air Ambulance attend as part of the emergency response.

My ward, which is home to two COMAH (Control of Major Accident Hazards) sites, other major industry, and an airfield, as well as high grade farmland, sits at the edge of Medway as part of the Peninsula. It is many many minutes away from wholetime fire stations in terms of response times. The Peninsula with only one route in and one route out replies upon its rural on call fire stations.

What action is Medway Council taking, and you as Leader of the Council, to not only ensure comprehensive fire and rescue coverage continues in Medway but that with all the proposed new homes and businesses proposed in the draft local plan, said protection is improved?"

Question E – Councillor Perfect will ask the Leader of the Council, Councillor Maple the following:

"Can the Leader of the Council please update on any conversations he has had around certainty of a decision in relation to Local Government Reorganisation for Kent and Medway with any government minister or the front-running announced candidate for the Labour leadership The Rt Hon Andy Burnham MP, given Sir Keir Starmer's resignation as Leader of the Labour Party on 22 June 2026?"

Question F – Councillor Tejan will ask the Portfolio Holder of Community Safety, Highways and Enforcement, Councillor Paterson, the following:

"Residents have reported inconsistent waiting times for the processing of parking permits. Could the Portfolio Holder please clarify the current Service Level Agreement (SLA) for the processing, issuing, and dispatching of parking permits? In responding, could he specify the expected turnaround time from payment to permit issuance; provide details of performance against this SLA over the past 12 months; indicate the number of cases that have exceeded the SLA and explain the reasons

for such delays; outline what contingency arrangements are in place where delays may result in residents receiving Penalty Charge Notices (PCNs) despite having paid for a permit; and set out the actions currently being taken to improve processing times and ensure that residents receive their permits promptly."

Question G – Councillor Anang will ask the Portfolio Holder of Heritage, Culture and Leisure, Councillor Gurung, the following:

"Could the Portfolio Holder explain the rationale behind the current charges to voluntary and non-profit organisations for the use of Council facilities, including community halls and green spaces, in giving her answer could she explain if any considerations have been made towards reduced rates, subsidies, or exemptions for groups delivering community-beneficial events, and what steps are being taken to ensure costs do not discourage such activities?"