

Council
21 February 2024
Agenda Item 14 – Questions from Councillors

Procedure Rule 11 - Questions from Councillors

1. The following question has been submitted by Councillor Murray Rowlands under Procedure Rule 11:

To the Leisure & Culture Portfolio Holder

"Can the portfolio holder please update the Council on progress towards the Art, Culture and Heritage strategy promised in the annual plan, as I remain concerned about the absence of arts and culture in the priorities of the Council?"

The Leisure & Culture Portfolio Holder, Councillor John Skipper, has provided the following response:

"The Council's Annual Plan that was only agreed last week at Executive relates to commitments made for the financial year starting in April 2024. However I can confirm that discussions around the strategy have already commenced. The new cultural strategy for the borough includes Arts and Heritage and will provide an opportunity to draw together the range of cultural services the Council offers (such what happens at the Theatre, Museum, our Parks and Open Spaces, and our Community Buildings, as well as other organisations offering cultural services in the borough). Given this is an objective for April 2024 onwards, it is a little early to provide feedback on progress. However, we will be taking regular progress reports to Performance and Finance Scrutiny Committee.

2. The following question has been submitted by Councillor Murray Rowlands under Procedure Rule 11:

To the Leisure & Culture Portfolio Holder

Why when the Council has moved towards an operation strategy to support arts and culture in the Borough is there a move to increase the hire charge for space at Camberley Theatre?

The Leisure & Culture Portfolio Holder, Councillor John Skipper, has provided the following response:

"I think Councillor Rowlands is mistaken as there is no increase in charges. The Council is able to contribute positively to the cultural life of the borough through its discretionary services because of the income it receives through charges. Whilst it is important that these charges keep pace with rising costs, I am pleased to confirm that the room-hire prices have not been increased for the 2024/25 financial year to ensure the hire costs remain at a market-competitive level.