

Council Meeting - 14 January 2025

Questions from Councillors

Questions from Councillor J Taylor

Question 1

I would like to know why this Council have still not had an inaugural meeting of the work group which is to review this council's policy on Diversity and Equality? In November at OS it was agreed that this group would be the highest priority above all others. Still we have not agreed the membership, ToR or a date of the first meeting.

Response from Chair of Overview and Scrutiny

The working group has been set up but as yet the terms of reference are not settled and having regard to the detail and complexity of the subject matter and initial proposal from Cllr Taylor it is not taking undue time. The matter certainly has not stagnated and in the meantime this working group and its objectives remain the priority.

Question 2

At the OS meeting in November, the Chair Council Sanders informed councillors that this council was acting lawfully. However, the evidence to support that has not been provided and is hiding behind legal privilege. It is not legal privilege Please provide evidence to this council now that supports Teignbridge's decision to allow men into women's changing rooms and toilets.

Response from the Chair of Overview and Scrutiny

The references made to a decision to allow men into women's changing rooms and toilets is most unhelpful, inappropriate and misconceived. The Cllr in her own proposal recognises the need to clarify the very definitions to which she now helps herself. The question is characteristic of the ongoing narrative and rhetoric that attended ostensibly the same question at previous meetings. The references made and the language deployed is deliberately inflammatory and it is unhelpful to democratic process. The question has been answered in full previously and will not be revisited.

Save to say that the Monitoring Officer's stated position is consistent with the legal advice received from counsel.