

Overview & Scrutiny Committee Meeting – 13th May 2025

Questions from members of the public

Question from Jenny Dingsdale

“Following the incredible victory of For Women Scotland in the Supreme Court, we have seen a lot of men who are very angry that it has now been clarified that they should never have been using female spaces. They feel as if their rights have been taken away, because they have been lied to. It is clearly a highly emotive issue for people with trans identities and their friends and family. In their view, access to single sex spaces for the opposite sex is not just a material benefit, it's a human right which has been removed. The second Nolan principle is integrity. 1.2 Integrity

Holders of public office must avoid placing themselves under any obligation to people or organisations that might try inappropriately to influence them in their work. They should not act or take decisions in order to gain financial or other material benefits for themselves, their family, or their friends. They must declare and resolve any interests and relationships.

I would like to know if any such declarations have been made by any of the lib Dems or officers, as the conflict of interest for those with a trans identifying person in the family or friend group is arguably much more powerful than a financial one.”

Answer:

Declarations of interest are matters of concern for individuals and are publicly available on the Council's website in respect of members and a record is held by the authority in respect of officers.

Question from Catherine Mudge

“You have reassured us that you will have appropriate guidance and training in place for staff on reopening of the refurbished Broadmeadow facilities.

In light of the UK Supreme Court's ruling that “sex” in the Equality Act 2010 refers to biological sex, meaning women's single-sex spaces are for biological females, how will the council design its staff training to handle situations where a man seeks to use female changing rooms in Teignbridge, and what specific resources or guidance will the council rely on to ensure compliance with this judgment?”

Answer:

Appropriate training will be sought and provided as necessary. Statutory Guidance is awaited.

Question from Gillian Johnson

“In the light of the judgment of the Supreme Court on 16 April 2025 in the matter of For Women Scotland v The Scottish Ministers do you believe that the opinion you obtained from Jonathan Ward of Counsel was good value for money?”

Answer:

Yes