

Council 29 July 2025

Questions from Members of the Council

The total time allowed/allotted for Member questions and answers is 30 minutes. Questions are presented in the order that they were received by Democratic Services.

Where a Member seeks to ask more than one question, any second and subsequent questions will be permitted subject to the principle of one question per member and time constraints. Where time allows, any such additional questions will be presented in the order they were received and in rotation.

Each Member has no more than 1 minute to ask their supplementary question. After the allotted period of 30 minutes has elapsed, any member submitting a question that is not able to be heard, will be asked if they agree to the question being referred to the next meeting or dealt with in some other way namely a written response.

First questions

12/5/2025 Cllr MacGregor to the Leader of the Council

The phrase community led is often bandied about in the chamber, at Executive and Overview & Scrutiny Meetings, as well as at Full Council meetings. What is the definition of 'community-led' that this council uses to define itself this way?

Response from the Leader of the Council

I would refer you to the [One Teignbridge Council Strategy](#).

10/07/25 Cllr P Parker to the Leader of the Council

In relation to the committee seat allocations approved at the recent Full Council meeting, can the Leader confirm how the final arrangements comply with the statutory requirements of Sections 15 to 17 of the Local Government and Housing Act 1989 and the Local Government (Committees and Political Groups) Regulations 1990, given that the vote approving the allocations was not unanimous and therefore, under law, cannot support any deviation from strict political proportionality?

Response from the Leader of the Council

We have always sought advice from the Monitoring Officer on matters relating to law and complied. The seat allocations are an ever-moving feast of Councillors changing party's or leaving the Council. As we are witnessing this month!

Second questions

12/5/2025 Cllr MacGregor to the Chair of Overview and Scrutiny (OS)

Is the council solicitor aware of the Solicitors Regulation Authority guidance regarding solicitors 'not' acting beyond their competence and the same principle extending to barristers under the Bar Standards Board?

Response from the Chair of Overview and Scrutiny

Yes.

10/07/25 Cllr P Parker to the Leader of the Council

On what legal basis were the last-minute changes to the proposed committee seat allocations introduced by the Liberal Democrat group without prior consultation with the Independent Group permitted to override the previously proportional and more widely acceptable arrangements?

Response from the Leader of the Council

I refer the Councillor to my previous answer.

Third questions

12/5/2025 Cllr MacGregor to the Leader of the Council

Zero Tolerance was one of the aspects voted for at the Full Council meeting and as a result of the Grant Thornton statutory recommendation. Is this going to be applied consistently to all councillors equally?

Response to the Leader of the Council

Yes, it is for all Group Leaders to model good behaviour and ensure their group complies with the Code of Conduct.

10/07/25 Cllr P Parker to the Leader of the Council

Will the administration confirm that in future, if a departure from political proportionality is proposed, all members will be explicitly informed in advance that such a deviation requires unanimous agreement in accordance with the law?

Response from the Leader of the Council

Yes, if the Council agrees under Section 17 to disapply sections 15 and 16 of the Act.

Fourth questions

12/5/2025 Cllr MacGregor to the Leader of the Council

In light of the recent UK Supreme Court judgement will the outgoing chair of council, outgoing chair of Overview and Scrutiny and the several councillors who disparaged concerns raised, apologise to those members of the public that they interrupted and shut down at every opportunity?

Response from the Leader of the Council

That is for those Members to decide themselves if they felt appropriate to do so.

10/07/25 Cllr P Parker to the Leader of the Council

If the current allocations are not to be revisited and recalculated strictly in line with Sections 15 and 16 of the 1989 Act, will the Council provide a copy of the written external legal advice relied upon to justify the course of action taken and explain how it has been reconciled with the relevant statutory duties?

Response from the Leader of the Council

The Committee Seat allocations will be revisited in today's meeting.

Fifth questions

12/5/2025 Cllr MacGregor to the Leader of the Council

Is it normal policy for officers to monitor private social media accounts of councillors?

Response from the Leader of the Council

Councillors are public figures and their social media accounts (public and private) can be viewed by anyone, depending on their own privacy settings.