

## Public Question Time

| No. | Question from:                                       | Question to:   | Question:   |
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| 1.  | Councillor Richard Tomlinson                         | Councillor Lucy Nethsingha,<br>Leader of the Council | I am standing as a candidate for county council elections in May 2025. I would like to ask the leader how she allocates her time for her duties.  |
|     | Response from:                                       | Response to:   | Response:   |
|     | Councillor Lucy Nethsingha,<br>Leader of the Council | Councillor Richard Tomlinson                         |   |
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| 2.  | Mr Guy Lachlan                                       | Councillor Lucy Nethsingha,<br>Leader of the Council | <p>According to their most recent filings at Companies House, This Land, a property development company wholly owned by CCC, has net debts of £99M, with all their finance to date provided by CCC in the form of loans to the tune of £114M. At the time of filing their 2022 accounts they had accumulated operating losses of about £27M, excluding financing costs. No doubt the 2023 figures will be even worse.</p> <p>We now read a disconcerting report in Private Eye, which claims that a decision was taken by the Strategy, Resources and Performance Committee, in a closed session in July this year, to lend This Land an additional £6.3M. No details are available to the public regarding the business case for this additional loan, which the magazine says may also have broken rules forbidding councils from borrowing to fund commercial ventures.</p> <p>I would like to ask the leader of the Council what criteria CCC are assessing in order to be confident that the council's financial exposure to this risky commercial venture is in ratepayers' best interests?</p> |

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| 3.  | Mr Daniel Fulton   | Councillor Lucy Nethsingha,<br>Leader of the Council                            | <p>Does the leader of the council agree that it would be inappropriate for the county council to act as a clearing house for the collection and dissemination of politically sensitive information obtained from the electronic interception of emails and telephone calls in this county?</p> <p>I am asking this question in an individual capacity. I am asking the question because I have an interest in protecting the integrity of the democratic process in the county.</p>  |
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| 4.  | Dr Andrew Turton<br>Submitted on behalf<br>of three parents -<br>Louise Barbour,<br>Victoria Leeks, and<br>Andrew Turton | Councillor Bryony Goodliffe, Chair of<br>Children and Young<br>People Committee | <p>Cambridgeshire County Council has proposed to stop Childcare Access Funding and Special School After School Clubs Funding from April 25. The Council's Equality Impact Assessment has clearly identified a significant negative impact on the children with the highest level of special educational need and disability. The proposed mitigating actions are either not fit for purpose or do not exist.</p> <p>As parents, we are aware that the risks of stopping this funding include loss of safe, accessible activities and social opportunities for children with special needs and disabilities and parents having to give up paid work further reducing their ability to</p> |

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|     |   |   | <p>financially support their children. Children’s need for a safe supportive environment is a constant. In addition to the social and emotional benefits, wraparound care and holiday clubs support social care to keep children safe and help families to care for children with complex needs in their own home for longer. Stopping funding for statutory adjacent services will almost certainly increase the demand for statutory services in the longer term, thus negating any short-term cost benefit.</p> <p>We would like to ask the council who has been consulted to assess impact and risk to families, and how has the council assessed the longer-term cost implications given that these cuts will likely result in increased need for other council funded services going forwards?</p>  |
|     | Response from:  | Response to:  | Response:   |
|     | Councillor Bryony Goodliffe, Chair of Children and Young People Committee | Dr Andrew Turton  |   |
| No. | Question from:  | Question to:  | Question:   |
| 5.  | Mr Euan Dunn  | Councillor Lorna Dupré, Chair of Environment and Green Investment Committee | <p>In its response to East West Rail’s 2021 consultation, the County Council noted (at paragraphs 44 and 45) that ‘Cambridgeshire is one of the most biodiversity deprived counties in the country, with many of Cambridgeshire’s wildlife sites, habitats, and species in decline ... Transport schemes can have significant impact on wildlife as a result of carving-up the landscape, leaving small isolated pockets of wildlife, which are vulnerable to change. .. in Cambridgeshire, route Alignments 1 and 9 provide the best opportunity to protect the county’s biodiversity assets, as they follow the route of existing infrastructure (e.g. alignment of the old / proposed new A428) so that only a single transport corridor is created across the landscape. [They] are also further away from the rare Barbastelle Bat maternity colony at the Wimpole and Eversden Woods ..., which is of international importance for its bat population.’</p> |

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|  |   |              | <p>East West Rail Company has not chosen either of these alignments, rather a route that runs through the barbastelle bats' vital 10km core sustenance zone surrounding their maternity roost in the Eversden and Wimpole and Woods Special Area of Conservation (SAC). EWR Co is relying on green bridges and underpasses as mitigation measures to argue its proposals will not adversely affect the integrity of this small (around 20 females) maternity colony for which the SAC was designated.</p> <p>There is no evidence that such mitigation measures work to avoid the bats' flight paths being severed, especially given EWR Co's need to clear various parts of the rail route of trees, hedgerows and other vegetation well ahead of the start of construction and leave them barren for several years. This threatens the very survival of the maternity roost.</p> <p>What is Cambridgeshire County Council doing in its response to the latest consultation to assess these proposed measures and suggest alternatives? It must protect our precious barbastelles.</p> |
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|  | Councillor Lorna Dupré, Chair of Environment and Green Investment Committee | Mr Euan Dunn |   |