

Date	Question to	Question	Accepted / Rejected	Reason
05/03/2019	Mayor	Can the Mayor confirm if she thinks 2 hours free parking will increase footfall within Mansfield Town centre?	Accepted	
	Mayor	Do you think putting some council services such as a cash office, housing and homelessness officers, front desk customer enquiries in to our Town Hall on Mansfield Market Place would make council services more accessible and increase footfall in our town centre?	Accepted	
	Mayor	Mansfield is the only authority in the County that has an Executive Mayor instead of a council leader. In the other Nottinghamshire Local Authorities the average allowance for the council leaders is just over £19,000 p.a. How does the current Mayor justify the £60,000 a year she currently receives?	Accepted	
21/05/2019	Mayor	"Many congratulations to the Mayor on winning the election. During the campaign, many residents complained about the cost of the position of the Mayor. In response, I suggested to cut the mayoral allowance by about two thirds. You then offered to take a pay cut of about a third. I think that this is a positive compromise. I wonder if the Mayor would consider another compromise whereby the allowances and expenses of all the elected representatives in Mansfield are brought down to levels that are more consistent with other districts in Nottinghamshire, so that more money can be invested in our community?"	Withdrawn	
16/07/2019	Mayor	A sum of public money in the region of £500,000 is required annually for the next four years amounting to £2,000,000. This money is required to provide allowances and expenses for the 46 elected members. Whilst national Government dictates these figures, do you have any concern as to whether this money is being spent in the best interests of Council Tax Payers and is spent to good and useful purpose.	Accepted	
	Cllr Barton	In both campaign literature and full page CHAD advertising in the purdah period of the 2015 Council elections, the Mansfield Independent Forum and its Mayoral candidate Kate Allsop made a number of 'promises', to use your words, to the electorate in exchange for their vote. In the Mansfield Independent Forum campaign literature and full page CHAD advertising during the purdah period of the May 2019 Council elections the Mansfield Independent Forum and it's Mayoral candidate Kate Allsop stated that 7 out of 8 of the aforementioned 2015 election promises had been delivered by Mayor Kate Allsops administration. The declaration of success went further and declared 'no other politician locally or nationally can match this impressive record'. Given that you were elected on the back of these declarations, could you please detail which 7 of 8 2015 election promises the Mansfield Independent Forum had delivered before the purdah period of the May 2019 election, including details of the associated documents demonstrating the aforementioned achievements.	Rejected	This relates to a political matter and is not a matter for which the Council has any responsibility or which affects the District.
	Mayor	As the Executive Mayor, affiliate with the Labour Party, what assurance can you give to the people of Mansfield that the Labour Councillors elected to Mansfield District Council can vote as they see fit and be of free mind, as opposed to being subject to a whip imposed by the CLP?	Rejected	This relates to a political matter and is not a matter for which the Council has any responsibility or which affects the District.
	Mayor	In 2015 The Mansfield Independent Forum and it's Mayoral candidate Kate Allsop pledged to deliver a council fit for purpose by 2019. Do you consider this Council (from Chief Executive down) to be fit for purpose and if so could you detail for which purpose you deem it to be fit.	Rejected	This question requests the Mayor to express his personal opinion. Questions from members of the public should seek to hold members to account for their actions rather than seeking personal opinion. This question does not comply with this general principle of holding a member of the Council to account for their actions
	Mayor	In 2015 The Mansfield Independent Forum and it's Mayoral candidate Kate Allsop pledged to deliver a council fit for purpose by 2019. Do you consider this Council (from Chief Executive down) to be fit for purpose and if so could you detail for which purpose you deem it to be fit.	Rejected	
	Mayor	Do you consider the exit package paid to the recently departed Monitoring Officer to be appropriate, given that the local tax payer paid the £190,000 in pension contributions alone to the departing Monitoring Officer (as confirmed by a FOI request), particularly given the average annual salary within our district is quoted as circa £17,000 notwithstanding the quoted mean salary within our District will be swelled by the huge salaries paid to Officers within this very council. Moreover, what can you do as Executive Mayor to ensure tax payers money is being utilised for the betterment of our district as opposed to the betterment of Officers bank balances?	Rejected	This questions fails to uphold the general principle of holding a member to account for their actions.
24/09/2019	Mayor	In accordance with (i) "a matter for which the local authority has a responsibility or which affects the district", I would like to congratulate you Mayor Abrahams on your decision to surrender a third of your annual salary to support local groups assisting those in need or doing good work in support of the local community. It is a stance not seen from either of the previous holders of the position of Executive Mayor and is most welcome. The Council website declares that " The new Mayor of Mansfield is determined to make a positive, sustainable changes that impact on the daily lives of people." What other ground breaking initiatives are you working on to assist those with the greatest need within our district	Accepted	
24/09/2019	Mayor	In accordance with (i) "a matter for which the local authority has a responsibility or which affects the district, The "100 days in office" statement declares "There are further organisational changes to be made as Mansfield District Council continues its programme of transformation including a review of procurement to ensure that companies and local skills are fully utilised in the MDC supply chain - all at the request of the new Mayor." Clearly you are looking at all areas open to improvement within the Council. To this end and now over 100 days in to your term, is this council fit for purpose?	Rejected	Does not hold a member to account
24/09/2019	Chair	In accordance with (v) 'holding a member of Council to account for their actions', At your first Full Council meeting as elected Mayor you added a further meeting of Full Council to the annual agenda. I quote the published minutes of that meeting (21st May 2019), 'As an amendment it was proposed by the Elected Mayor and seconded by the Deputy Mayor that an additional meeting of the Council be held in (sic) during the year on 21 April 2020. In proposing the motion the Elected Mayor stated that this additional meeting of Council provided a further opportunity for elected members to be held to account and for Council to debate matters that were of importance to it.' With this in mind and given your desire to provide opportunity for elected members to be held to account, why does this Council's Constitution restrict the questions members of the public can ask of this council, what does the application of these restrictions by the Council's Monitoring Officer say about transparency and what can you do to put an end to restrictions on what the people that elect you can and cannot ask on the few occasions you hold full council meetings?	Accepted	
24/09/2019	Cllr Ward	In accordance with (v) 'holding a member of council to account for their actions', Why did you surrender your position as Chair of the Overview and Scrutiny Committee (Communities) at the last Full Council meeting on Tuesday 16 July and vote for Councillor Stephen Garner to replace you?	Accepted	
	Mayor	During the May 2019 election campaign, you said that one of your objectives was to address the problem of homelessness. Can you tell me what positive actions you and your Cabinet have taken since then towards not only dealing with homelessness but also preventing it?	Accepted	
	Mayor	Given the sheer volume of work required by this Council to move this District in the right direction, how can you justify the appointment of at least two members of your cabinet, who have full time jobs outside of this council, to positions that see them in receipt of in excess of £22,000 per annum of tax payers money for their part time contribution? Should the local tax payer not rightfully expect 40 hours per week minimum from Councillors in receipt of allowances equivalent to full time salaries and moreover where are the trackable KPI's for the public to see and gauge performance of the individuals in receipt of these significant sums of money?	Accepted	

	Cllr Wetton	As Chairman of the Council, for the benefit of those people within our District that rely on accurate minute taking to keep up with this and other meetings within this Council, could you explain in detail how the minutes are taken and who or what dictates what is and is not noted. Could you also outline why remarks made in your meeting are not noted verbatim and in fact are changed by the person taking the minutes (for the sake of example I refer you to the minutes of the last full council meeting (24th September 2019) and my own supplementary question. The published minutes do not in any way, shape or form relate to the actual supplementary questions I asked and, more worryingly, were re-edited following their initial publication with remarks made at the meeting and published in the original minutes later removed).	Refused	Not holding a member to account
	Cllr Barton	You have recently announced the Mansfield Independent Forum Party has changed it's name to the Mansfield Independents. I refer to your column in Mansfield Chad dated 6th September 2019 and quote ; 'The group I lead has now changed it's name to Mansfield Independents, writes Coun Mick Barton. After 16 years, the group has decided to drop the forum name, but it remains the only independent group in Mansfield.' In media announcements you announced the change but didn't offer any reasoning why. For the benefit of the voting population in our District could you please explain why the Mansfield Independent Forum Party has changed its name.	Refused	Not a matter for the Council
	Cllr Wetton	The Tax Payers Alliance have recently made much of the cost of this council in comparison to others within the region. There has followed much debate on this issue on social media platforms. The figures quoted, as you will no doubt be aware, are not accurate. The fact remains however that Rushcliffe Council has a larger population to service, has eight more councillors than this council, yet it costs the Rushcliffe tax payer on average £150,000 less per annum than Mansfield District Council. What can be done as a matter of urgency to address this evidenced inefficiency in order to bring this council in line with others that cost a lot less money for the same job, arguably delivered more efficiently and certainly with a larger personnel resource?	Refused	Not holding a member to account
22/01/2020	Mayor	At the Full Council Meeting of 16th July 2019, following the departure of Jacqueline Collins (Assistant Chief Executive and Monitoring Officer), it was proposed by you, the Elected Mayor and seconded by the Deputy Mayor, that the Council's then current Head of Law and Governance, Sarah Hall, be designated to the position of Monitoring Officer. On what basis did you make that proposal, had you fully explored this candidates suitability for the position of Monitoring Officer, what documentation was circulated to the Councillors of this District, all of whom voted unanimously in favour of this appointment, to allow them to make an informed decision regarding this appointment and were applications from external candidates accepted and circulated?	Accepted	
	Mayor	The Constitution of this Council states 'The Mayor acts as a focal point for the community.' With this responsibility in mind, on Sunday 24th November 2019 you attended a meeting at Vision West Notts, organised by hard left group Momentum and it's activist Owen Jones, prior to door knocking on behalf of Labours prospective parliamentary candidate backed by Momentum, Sonya Ward. You are First Citizen of this District. As such, and given the responsibilities the role of Mansfield's First Citizen carries, could you outline to what extent you are involved with the Momentum organisation and what does it mean to the people of Mansfield that it is represented by a Mayor prepared to attend a political rally organised by such a group and how this is relevant to your role as our First Citizen and Mayor.	Accepted	
	Mayor	On 17th November last year there was a massive mud slide in Bank End Close. Luckily nobody was seriously injured or killed. There followed multiple complaints from residents, alongside statements from residents, suggesting that this Council had been made aware of safety concerns long before this collapse. In news broadcasts Chief Executive Hayley Barsby stated, and I quote, 'This was very much something that was not foreseeable or something that we didn't foresee to happen'. There followed another mudslide at Rockhill on Thursday 21st November. The council response to this included Mike Robinson, Strategic Director at Mansfield District Council, saying: 'The land slip was an unforeseen event that was caused by extreme climatic conditions.' Given that two senior officers of this council have between them excused these collapses as due to things that weren't foreseeable and couldn't be foreseen and that they were due to the weather, can you outline what exactly this council has done and intends to do following these two incidents to reassure residents in Quarry estates, and those walking past any sheer face in our District, that they are safe.	Accepted	
	Cllr Barton	As Leader of the Mansfield Independent Group (formerly the Mansfield Independent Forum), what can you do to reassure the people of the Kings Walk Ward that they have recourse to a capable and active Councillor given his poor attendance record at council meetings since being elected as Councillor for the aforementioned ward?	Accepted	
	Cllr Fretwell	The Constitution states that the Governance and Ethics Committee, of which you are the current Chair, will also include two people (non-elected independent members), who are not Councillors or employees of the council. Does this committee currently have two non-elected independent members who are not Councillors or employees of the council, if not why not, and when was the last time this Council had two non-elected members who are not Councillors or employees of the Council on the Governance and Ethics Committee?	Accepted	
	Cllr Ward	Under the Council Constitution the Members Code of Conduct clearly states holders of public office should give reasons for their decisions. In answer to my question, put to you in my absence at the meeting of Full Council in November last year, you stated in your response that 'as many in this chamber will attest, in opposition I vociferously and consistently argued that the Chairs of Scrutiny should be held by the opposition group'. I can find no evidence of you either arguing vociferously or consistently that scrutiny Chairs should be held by the opposition group in any Council minutes or statements. In accordance with Mansfield District Council Values (Constitution Section 1.03 Integrity : Be honest, open and transparent) , could you please cite where this is minuted and explain why opposition members chairing Scrutiny Committees makes any difference whatsoever to the successful operation of this council	Refused	Not holding a member to account
	Cllr L Anderson	Following your election as the Member of Parliament for Ashfield, will you be resigning your position on Mansfield District Council or do you intend to continue to receive the allowance?	Accepted	