

COUNCIL 23 FEBRUARY 2021
AGENDA ITEM 8 – QUESTIONS FROM MEMBERS

1. Question to the Leader of the Council from Councillor Alan Sharp:

The Council's most recent 5 year land supply report, published in December 2020 shows that the Council has not only retained its 5 year housing land supply, but that with effect from 1st January 2021 it can in fact demonstrate 6.14 years supply of land. Does the Leader agree with me that this is good news for residents?

Whilst noting that the Council has no powers or levers to force developers to build out the units that they have been granted planning permission for, does the Leader also agree with me, that the fact that the Council has also passed the Housing Delivery Test with a score of 87% against a pass rate of 75% is very good news for residents and communities in helping to ensure development is controlled, and the development envelopes are respected?

Further, does she agree with me that the recent successes of the Council in defending the multitude of planning appeals and judicial reviews from developers on sites in Witchford is a sign of a well-run, competent planning department that has a full complement of staff and provides a first class service for residents?

2. Question to the Leader of the Council from Councillor Bill Hunt:

Does the Leader join with me in welcoming the decision of the Finance and Assets Committee to work with the Chief Constable to implement Section 38 of the Police and Crime Act to carry out enforcement of on street car parking regulations?

And secondly, what is the Leader's ambition for the introduction of CSAS in the District and would she commit to referring any decision on this to Full Council and to giving all Members an opportunity to discuss the issue beforehand?

3. Question from Councillor Christine Whelan:

The Council have recently revised their equality, diversity and inclusivity policy, in light of this what has the council done to promote LGBT History month which is happening this month as it does every February?

4. Question to Chairman of Operational Services Committee on Recent Email Outage from Councillor Mark Inskip:

Has the Chairman of the Operational Services Committee requested and received a full report on the recent email outage which left the Council without email services for nearly three days? Does this report include an analysis of the root cause of the incident, future preventative and/or mitigation actions and other lessons learned? Does the report include a review of the Disaster Recovery plan as a consequence of

the lengthy outage? Does the report include an analysis of the effect of this incident on the Council's risk register? And is he confident of the adequacy of the Council's investment in its information technology?

5. Question to Chairman of Finance & Assets Committee from Councillor Lorna Dupré:

Approval was given by this Council on 31 July 2020 to spend an additional £30,000 in 2020/21 on the administration's Mepal Crematorium project, on top of sums already spent up to that point.

Since that date, a further £91,451 has been spent on this project.

Could the Chairman of the Finance & Assets Committee explain:

- a. on what authority £71,487 was spent on this project before that decision was made on 31 July, and where that authority is documented?
- b. which budget head that £71,487 came from?
- c. on what authority an overspend of 205 per cent on the additional £30,000 approved by Full Council has been incurred; who signed this off; and where that is evidenced?
- d. which budget head the £91,451 spent on the project since 31 July 2020 came from?

6. Question to Chairman of Finance & Assets Committee from Councillor John Trapp:

In the light of concerns expressed across the country by local authority election officers and returning officers, can the Chair of the Finance & Assets Committee advise what assessments have been done of the feasibility and additional cost of keeping staff and members of the public safe during the local elections if they are held on the first Thursday in May, at every stage of the process from nominations to election count; and whether any shortages of polling stations have been identified, and if so how many and where?