

Date of Publication of Decision List: 27 October 2020

FOR INFORMATION ONLY – THESE DECISIONS ARE NOT SUBJECT TO CALL-IN



EAST
CAMBRIDGESHIRE
DISTRICT COUNCIL

COUNCIL – 22 OCTOBER 2020
DECISION LIST

Prior to the formal commencement of the meeting, a minute's silence was observed as a mark of respect following the recent deaths of former District Councillor Graham Steward, Labour Member for Sutton from 1991-2003 and former District Councillor John Willson, Independent Member for Ely West from 1991-1995.

Agenda Item No.	Report Ref.	Item	Issue	Decision	Action by
1.	-	Public Question Time	To answer questions from members of the public.	Questions were received from Jethro Gauld, Margherita Cesca Nelder-Haynes and Susan Bussell and read out at the meeting. Responses were given by the Leader of the Council, Councillor Anna Bailey. (Questions asked and answers given detailed at end of Decision List.)	
2.	-	Apologies for Absence	-	No apologies for absence were received from Councillors.	-
3.	-	Declarations of Interest	To receive declarations of interests from Members in respect of any items on the Agenda in accordance with the Members Code of Conduct.	Declarations of Interests were made by Councillor Charlotte Cane as follows: Agenda Item 12: Exempt Minutes 31 July 2020 - Disclosable Pecuniary Interest (DPI) - will leave the meeting at this point and not return.	-

Agenda Item No.	Report Ref.	Item	Issue	Decision	Action by
				Agenda Items 6 & 8: Petitions & Questions from Members – whilst these items have matters relating to Mepal Outdoor Centre, will remain for these items as there will be no discussion or decisions on the issue.	
4.	-	Minutes – 16 & 31 July 2020	-	<p>It was resolved:</p> <p>That the Minutes of the Council meeting held on 16 July 2020 and Extraordinary Council meeting held on 31 July 2020 be confirmed as a correct record and signed by the Chairman, subject to the following amendments:</p> <p>Minute 23, page 3, second paragraph, final sentence to read:</p> <p>‘.....conscientious and committed Chief Executive to East Cambridgeshire.’</p> <p>Minute 27, Corporate Plan – record that Councillor Cane left the meeting for the duration of this item.</p>	Democratic Services Manager
5.	-	Chairman’s Announcements	Announcement of items of interest.	The Chairman made announcements on Covid-19 update; Green Flag Award for Ely Country Park and Jubilee Gardens to the Parks and Open Spaces Team; Bus Services Review remote Member Seminar on 29 October 2020 at 6pm.	-
6.	-	To Receive Petitions	To receive public petitions.	A petition was received requesting that the Mepal Outdoor Centre remain as a Leisure Centre. The Petition had the title ‘Save Mepal Outdoor Centre - Potential for the	-

Agenda Item No.	Report Ref.	Item	Issue	Decision	Action by
				<p>Future' and stated that it was part of an ongoing community campaign to keep the Centre as a valuable resource for the future health and wellbeing of both the local environment and community.</p> <p>The Petition Organisers, Colin Stevens and Mercedes Rollason, spoke in support of the Petition and responded to questions from Members.</p> <p>The Chairman and Leader of the Council thanked Colin and Mercedes for their attendance and presentation of the Petition to the Council.</p> <p>The Leader of the Council then responded to the Petition as detailed at the end of the Decision List.</p>	
7.	-	Notice of Motions Under Procedure Rule 10	<p>The following motions were received and considered:</p> <p>(i) <u>Protecting the Public's say in the Planning Process</u></p> <p>(text of Motion as amended at end of Decision List)</p> <p>(ii) <u>Parking Enforcement</u></p> <p>(text of Motion at end of Decision List)</p>	<p>Motion as amended carried.</p> <p>Motion carried.</p>	<p>Director Commercial</p> <p>Director Operations</p>

Agenda Item No.	Report Ref.	Item	Issue	Decision	Action by
8.	-	To answer Questions from Members	To receive questions from Members of Council.	7 Questions from Members were received and responses given as detailed at the end of the Decision List.	Director Commercial/ Director Operations
9.	V90	Recommendations from Committees and Other Member Bodies	To consider and take decisions on items recommended from Committees and other Member Bodies.	<p>1. FINANCE AND ASSETS COMMITTEE – 23 JULY 2020</p> <p><u>Treasury Operations Annual Performance Review</u></p> <p>It was resolved:</p> <p>That the report be approved.</p> <p>2. LICENSING COMMITTEE – 9 SEPTEMBER 2020</p> <p><u>Licensing Act 2003 Licensing Authority Statement of Licensing Policy – Five Year Revision</u></p> <p>It was resolved:</p> <p>(i) That the draft Statement of Licensing Policy, including the amendments shown as tracked changes in Appendix 2 in their entirety, be approved.</p> <p>(ii) That the approved Statement of Licensing Policy be</p>	

Agenda Item No.	Report Ref.	Item	Issue	Decision	Action by
				<p>recommended for adoption by full Council to come into effect on 7 January 2021.</p> <p>3. FINANCE AND ASSETS COMMITTEE – 24 SEPTEMBER 2020</p> <p><u>Corporate Risk Management – Policy and Update</u></p> <p>It was resolved:</p> <p>That the updated Risk Management Policy, as set out in Appendix 3 of the submitted report, be approved.</p>	
10.	V91	East Cambridgeshire Local Plan and 'Planning For The Future' White Paper	To update Members on a wide range of Planning policy matters, and seek an agreed way forward on such matters.	<p>It was resolved:</p> <p>That Council:</p> <p>I. Notes the publication of the Planning White Paper, and delegates to Director, Commercial, in consultation with the Leader, to respond to the White Paper in line with the principles set out in the agenda report.</p> <p>II. Agrees to commence preparation of a partial update to the 2015 Local Plan (a 'Single Issue Review'), in accordance with the principles set out in the agenda report and to a</p>	

Agenda Item No.	Report Ref.	Item	Issue	Decision	Action by
				<p>timetable (the 'Local Development Scheme') as set out at Appendix 1.</p> <p>III. Endorses the updated work programme for the preparation of Supplementary Planning Documents over the coming 12 months.</p> <p>IV. Continues to support Parish Councils on planning matters, including those that have identified an interest in progressing Neighbourhood Plans in their area, and further resolves that Officers should write to each Parish Council with a thorough update on Planning policy matters, in line with the content of this agenda report, and explain what it means for them at a local Parish level.</p>	
11.	-	Combined Authority Update Report	To receive a report on the activities of the Combined Authority from this Council's appointees.	<p>It was resolved:</p> <p>That the report on the activities of the Combined Authority be noted.</p>	-
		EXCLUSION OF THE PRESS & PUBLIC		<p>It was resolved:</p> <p>That the press and public be excluded during the consideration of agenda item no. 12 because it is likely, in view of the nature of the business to be transacted or the nature of the proceedings, that if members of the public were present during the items there would be</p>	

Agenda Item No.	Report Ref.	Item	Issue	Decision	Action by
				disclosure to them of exempt information of Category 3 of Part I Schedule 12A to the Local Government Act 1972 (as amended)	
12.	-	Exempt Minutes – 31 July 2020		It was resolved: That the Exempt Minutes of the Extraordinary Council meeting held on 31 July 2020 be confirmed as a correct record and signed by the Chairman.	-

1. PUBLIC QUESTION TIME

Question 1

The following question was received from Jethro Gauld and read out at the meeting on his behalf:

"Declaring a climate emergency last year was an important step for ECDC. Unfortunately, local councils across the UK may unwittingly be contributing to worsening the climate crisis by investing in fossil fuels via local authority pension funds and other investments. Fossil Free UK estimate that UK local authority pension funds currently invest £14bn in funds linked to coal, oil and gas. This is obviously incompatible with solving the climate crisis.

Will the council join other local authorities and large institutions such as The University of Cambridge in making a public statement on the current financial exposure of ECDC to fossil fuels and commit to:

1. Immediately freeze any new investment in publicly-traded fossil fuel companies;
2. Divest from direct ownership and any commingled funds that include fossil fuel public equities and corporate bonds within 5 years.

As public bodies, local councils have a responsibility to work for the public good; publicly divesting from fossil fuels sends a clear message to the markets that we need to leave them in the ground."

Question 2

The following question was received from Margherita Cesca Nelder-Haynes and read out at the meeting on her behalf by Susan Bussell:

Electric vehicle charging points in East Cambridgeshire District On behalf of East Cambs CAN, Climate Action Network

The transport secretary has said, "It is vital that electric vehicle drivers feel confident about the availability of charge points near their homes and that charging an electric car is seen as easy as plugging in a smart phone."

Although car sales are down, sales of electric vehicles are surging. Demand for charging points is undoubtedly growing in the district. As part of the Government's £1.5 billion Road to Zero strategy, funding is now available to local authorities for the on street residential charge point scheme. Is the district council taking this opportunity and applying for funds under this scheme?

The district council has recognised the importance of electric charging points in their environment and climate action plan. But will you deliver on this? New residential developments are being constructed without EV charging points on site. Will the Council commit to stop this practise and introduce a new normal as part of their plans to reduce emissions to comply with the Climate Change Act?

Question 3

The following question was received from and read out at the meeting by Susan Bussell:

Questions to ask at Council meeting on behalf of Eastcamb's CAN Energy efficiency of homes in the district

The 2015 Report by the Building Research Establishment - Dwelling Level Housing Stock Modelling and Database -prepared for East Cambridgeshire District Council on housing stock highlighted that the average Energy Efficiency ratings for all private sector dwellings in East Cambridgeshire is 52 falling within band E, which is worse than the average for both England (55) and East of England (55). For owner-occupied housing stock in East Cambridgeshire, the figure is 53 and for the private rented sector it is 50.

This lower energy efficiency results in:-

- higher carbon emissions contributing to climate change and;
- increased fuel poverty amongst low-income families and poorer health.

The highest concentrations of fuel poverty and “excess cold”, in the private sector, were found in the wards of Dullingham Villages, The Swaffhams and Stretham.

1. What has the Council done to reduce carbon emissions from domestic properties and reduce fuel poverty across the whole of the District?
2. Is the Council going to take advantage of the Green Homes Grant – Local Authority Delivery, from Central Government, in order to make homes in the district more energy efficient, reduce fuel poverty amongst low-income families and decrease carbon emissions? I refer councillors to a very helpful and informative recent report titled Hotnumbers prepared on behalf of Carbon Neutral Cambridge. This report provides an overview of home energy upgrade opportunities in the Cambridgeshire and Peterborough combined Authority in order to accelerate the rate of improvement and help optimise the use of the Green Homes Grant scheme in our area. (Report circulated to all Councillors and available on Council website)
3. Lastly how is the Council enforcing the regulations concerning the Minimum Energy Efficiency Standards (MEES) for private rented properties, across the district, since it became a legal requirement for all, non-exempt, private rented properties to be at least an E rating since April 2020? It is noted that the BRE Report of 2015 stated that just under 25%, in East Cambridgeshire, were estimated to have an EPC rating of below an E rating.

Responses from Leader of the Council, Councillor Anna Bailey:

Question 1

The Council does not directly invest in any companies involved in fossil fuels.

However, the Council, does clearly have funds in the Cambridgeshire Pensions Fund, which is managed by Cambridgeshire County Council. We have no control therefore on where this money is invested.

Further, the majority of the Council's cash holdings are invested in Money Market Funds (this in line with the Treasury Management Strategy) where again we have no control where the money is ultimately invested.

Question 2

The Council has engaged two companies to carry out a feasibility study regarding the suitability of installing rapid EV charging points in Council owned car parks. One of the companies is also investigating the feasibility of installing 7Kw to allow overnight charging for residents. This is being done as part of the Government's Road to Zero Strategy.

The Council is also working with CPCA and other local Councils to produce a Combined Authority area wide EV Strategy to address the growing demand for electric vehicles and associated infrastructure across the area.

Planning officers encourage the inclusion of EV charging points in new development and in the Fordham Neighbourhood Plan there is a specific policy which allows the planning team to request EV charge points for developments in Fordham.

The Council is currently consulting on its draft Climate Change Supplementary Planning Document which encourages the provision of electric charging infrastructure.

Question 3

The Council provides a Home Energy Conservation (HECA) Act 1995 return every 2 years, the last online submission was provided in 2018. This outlines action taken by the Council to:

- Reduce carbon emissions from domestic properties
- Reduce fuel poverty across the whole district and is outlined below;
- Target hard To Treat (HTT) homes that might be eligible for Energy Company Obligation (ECO funding)
- Organise and advertise advice surgeries (drop in sessions) at various locations around the district.

To ensure households are accessing the best energy deals, targeted promotion of energy options to households will be carried out by working in partnership with other groups and organisations, maximising engagement through established mechanisms and maintaining dialogue with external groups.

Promotion and support in the provision of basic energy efficiency measures will be achieved by utilising a wide range of mechanisms, including, for example, the Council's website, literature, social media, articles in relevant publications, newsletters, attendance at relevant events plus use of frontline staff working within the community as well as through face to face contact with residents.

Promoting energy efficiency measures is proposed for inclusion in strategic planning policy documents and updated as national policy changes. And we work in partnership with Health Agencies to target vulnerable groups living in cold homes.

We will provide information and links via our website on the most up to date information on FITs and RHI, energy efficiency planning guidance, and Action on Energy (Cambridgeshire wide District Council partnership). We continue to work towards seeking external funding sources.

The Council will be working with neighbouring authorities, through the Action on Energy Partnership on a bid submission for the next round of the Local Authority Delivery Grant. The report prepared on behalf of Carbon Neutral Cambridge provides some very useful data and information to assist with the bid.

The enforcement of Minimum Energy Efficiency Standard lies with Cambridgeshire County Council. The County Council has drawn up a delegated authority agreement for consideration by the Council. If agreed, this will then come under the remit of this Council's Environmental Health Domestic team. The role can be combined as part of the standard inspection routine, and to combine both the MEES and HHSRS process to enforce heating standards.

When a routine inspection is undertaken by officers within the Environmental Health department they check the EPC rating of the property. They also assess the property under the 'excess cold' hazard, under the Health and Housing Safety Rating System. Even if the property is above the required EPC rating, officers may find that works need to be carried out by the landlord to improve the insulation of the property and enforcement action may be required. If the EPC is found to be below the required legal rating, this will be referred to the enforcing agency which is currently Trading Standards.

The Council housing team organises Landlord Forums, where advice, support and guidance is provided to landlords.

6. TO RECEIVE PETITION(S)

Response to the Petition from the Leader of the Council, Councillor Anna Bailey:

I want to thank residents for bringing forward this petition, and of course I take note that 468 local people plus a further 183 unidentified local people have signed it. I share with you a strong desire to ensure a sustainable future for the Mepal site. First and foremost it has to be understood that the site is a key biodiversity asset in our District. The site is both beautiful and ecologically important, having matured since the outdoor centre ceased to trade – nature has taken over and wildlife has flourished.

I would like people to understand, therefore, that whatever the future for the site, that future has to protect and respect the wildlife and biodiversity that exists there. You could say that the site is *constrained* by the ecological assets, but I would prefer people to think of this positively as the wonderful asset that it is. And in line with the commitments made in our Environment and Climate Change Strategy, which received unanimous cross party support, we must go further than this - we must not only protect the natural assets but we must work to enhance them. I would also like to remind members of the opposition and our residents that we recently adopted the Natural Environment Supplementary Planning Document which now forms a material part of our planning policy - again this received unanimous cross party support - any development of the site will have to be instructed by what it says.

The Council worked incredibly hard, in good faith, to try to secure continued use of the site for outdoor pursuits. Despite our considerable cross party efforts it just wasn't possible to secure a sustainable community re-use of the site by a third party – organisations just couldn't find a way to make it financially viable. Anyone investing in the site, including the Council, will need to look for a return to pay for the cost of that investment. The outdoor education and leisure sector is now suffering massive financial hardship across the country in the wake of the Covid pandemic; indeed, the outdoor education sites run by the County Council are suffering enormous financial problems along with private sector leisure providers across the country.

The Council needs to secure a use for the site that respects its natural assets and that it can pay for. We do need to take steps to support our Medium Term Financial Strategy – something that this Council has an excellent track record of doing. We always look for solutions that benefit the community whilst helping to support the cost of frontline services, such as our brilliant housing team who help to ensure people do not become homeless. Looking for a use that will respect the site's ecology and help to generate an income is a reasonable, responsible and positive thing to do. Site use is constrained, for the reasons I have outlined; investigating the possibility of using the site to realise our ambition for a crematorium in our district is a sensible, reasonable and logical thing to do.

What we now have is the opportunity to provide a “green” crematorium, woodland burial facility and pet cemetery, which would fulfil the need for a self-supporting re-use of the site that responds to and respects the site's biodiversity needs and would provide a new facility for local residents that is not currently available in our district. We hope too, that some appropriate recreational use of the site may also be possible - but once again, I must emphasise that this has to be dictated by the biodiversity and ecology needs of the site.

I will set out later, in response to a question from a Member, where we are up to with site investigations and next steps.

7. NOTICE OF MOTIONS UNDER PROCEDURE RULE 10

(i) Protecting the Public's say in the Planning Process

This Council resolves to instruct officers to bring forward a paper to the Finance & Assets Committee examining the potential for the Council to work with East Cambridgeshire rural parishes to apply for designation under Section 157(i) of the Housing Act 1985, with the consequent power to set its own affordable housing threshold.

(ii) Parking Enforcement

This Council unequivocally endorses the constitutional commitment to free car parking in its off street town centre car parks. This commitment, together with a proportionate enforcement regime, is even more important now to support town centre businesses to recover from the COVID 19 crisis.

Nevertheless, the Council remains concerned at the growing instances of dangerous and anti-social on street car parking across the District, not limited to, but notably in Ely, Littleport, Bottisham and Soham. The on street enforcement regime is not fit for purpose.

The decriminalisation of on street car parking does not offer an appropriate solution to a District committed to free car parking and sound financial management. The Council cannot sign up to a scheme which is irreversible, has significant unfunded capital and revenue commitments and would lead to the introduction of car parking charges in our District.

Therefore, this Council instructs the Director, Operations to engage with the Chief Constable to discuss the provision of a dedicated car parking enforcement resource for the District and/or the effective implementation of CSAS (Community Safety Accreditation Scheme) and furthermore requests that an update is reported to Finance and Assets Committee in January 2021 detailing any legal and financial implications for consideration and decision on how to progress the matter.

8. TO ANSWER QUESTIONS FROM MEMBERS

The following question has been received from Councillor Mark Inskip to the Leader of the Council relating to Mepal Outdoor Centre:

'Question to the Leader of the Councillor regarding surveys and assessments commissioned by the Council on the Mepal Outdoor Centre site

The District Council has commissioned an extensive set of surveys and assessments of the Mepal Outdoor Centre site over the past year. These include a preliminary ecology appraisal, a groundwater risk assessment survey, a topographical survey, numerous daytime winter bird surveys, breeding bird, reptile and botanical surveys.

In her interview with the Ely Standard on the 18 August the Leader of the Council referred to the bio-diversity of the site and “some important wildlife.” Presumably this is confirmed by these surveys and assessments. Neither opposition councillors nor members of the public have access to these surveys and assessments and we can therefore only speculate as to the details in these documents.

In response to a Freedom of Information request FOI/EIR 20/21-170 issued last month requesting publication of the document the council argued that “the public interest in maintaining the exemption outweighs the public interest in disclosing the information” until the submission of the planning application.

Given the level of public interest demonstrated by the petition of over 2,300 names presented to the council why is it necessary to continue to keep these documents secret, particularly if there is an intent to publish later this year?

And if there is an intent to publish, as implied in the response to the Freedom of Information request, can she confirm that every document listed in the request will be published in November and on what date in November?’

Response from Leader of the Council, Councillor Anna Bailey:

My starting point is to reiterate that the detail of the preliminary ecological appraisal, the groundwater risk assessment and site investigation survey were reported in some detail to all Members of this Council when Full Council considered the outline business case for the crematorium project. It was also confirmed at the special full Council meeting that the preliminary ecological appraisal needed to be supplemented with a broad range of further ecological survey work so that there was comprehensive detail of all ecological matters across all seasons of the year. This work has been progressed as planned but the fire that took place on the Mepal site has resulted in the last of the survey work having to be rescheduled which has caused delay in being able to report on ecological matters.

We need to consider the ecological assets of the site in the round, and to do that we obviously need to complete all the survey work first. The final survey was completed earlier this week and we will now be putting all of the survey findings into a summary report.

All survey documents will form part of the planning application which is intended to be submitted in November 2020 and will therefore be publicly available.

To reassure East Cambridgeshire residents the Council will of course be seeking their views on the project as part of the planning application. This will include the following information being made available to the public through a dedicated page on the Council’s website:

- A planning policy statement to confirm that the project is compliant with the current planning policy of this Council
- Design concept visuals with a landscape plan
- CGI visuals of the proposed development
- Statements on the site survey work and ecology.

There will also be a link from the website to an on-line survey for members of the public to complete and return. This is the best way to directly inform the public about the project and as part of the planning application to get their views on the project. And of course a planning application requires the applicant to fully and accurately report the findings of public consultation.

Question from Councillor Matthew Downey:

"How has this Council marked Black History Month this year? Please supply a list of activities and dates."

Response from Leader of the Council, Councillor Anna Bailey:

Ahead of Black History Month (30th September), a member briefing was created and sent to members to inform them about Black History Month, its aims and detail of what the Council is doing during October to promote it and how they can get involved. Cllr Downey was included in that circulation.

Due to the current COVID-19 pandemic our approach has been focused on digital communications, such as our website and social media platforms.

A webpage dedicated to Black History Month was made and is currently still live. The page provides more information about Black History Month, asks people to take part in the council's Equality, Diversity and Inclusion policy consultation and promotes events taking place online by Cambridgeshire Libraries. We have also featured this webpage on the council's homepage carousel.

Social media has been regularly taking place throughout the month. This has been a mix of sharing content from the 'Great Black Britons' section of the Black History Month website and providing book recommendations, which feature our own social media graphics and a synopsis of each book. (04/10/20, 11/10/20, 17/10/20, 18/10/20, 20/10/20, 24/10/20, 25/10/20, 30/10/20, 31/10/20).

Similarly, regular promotion of our equality, diversity and inclusion policy consultation has been taking place. (1/10/20, 08/10/20, 15/10/20, 17/10/20, 21/10/20, 24/10/20, 26/10/20, 31/10/20)

Question from Councillor John Trapp:

"What progress has been made to date on the promised formal review of the property requirements of Palace Green Homes and East Cambs Community Housing to be completed by the end of December 2020? How is it intended that members of this Council will be engaged in the review and the outcome reported to all members?"

Response from Leader of the Council, Councillor Anna Bailey:

In Dec 2018 it was agreed that an operational review of office accommodation requirements would be carried out and reported to Asset Development Committee by 31 Dec 2020. That review is underway and the findings of the review will be reported to the renamed Finance & Assets Committee at its final meeting this calendar year on 26 November 2020.

Question from Councillor Alec Jones:

How many dwellings in the private rented sector in East Cambridgeshire have a category 1 Housing Health and Safety Rated System (HHSRS) hazards? What percentage of properties in the private rented sector does this equate to? Which wards have the highest concentrations of such properties?

Response from Leader of the Council, Councillor Anna Bailey:

I would just like to say, that with detailed questions of this nature, it would clearly be helpful if Members could provide as much advance notice as possible to help our busy officers respond and to enable Council to be furnished with as complete an answer as possible. I would also remind members that you don't *have* to wait to ask questions at Full Council – you can ask officers for information at any time.

Within the Private sector Housing modelling Report 2015 the following key findings were made.

1,089 (22%) dwellings in the private rented sector have Category 1 Health and Housing Rating System (HHSRS) Hazards. The levels of excess cold hazards are particularly high in East Cambridgeshire. The private rented sector is considerably worse than other tenures for HHSRS Category 1 hazards and fuel poverty.

The report does not provide specific information relating to the highest concentration of Category 1 HHSRS Hazards within wards of private rented properties, however the report does provide information on all tenure (rented and owner occupied) households and are provided as follows.

The highest concentrations of fuel poverty are found in the wards of the Dullingham Villages, The Swaffhams and Stretham, along with Excess Cold hazards.

The highest concentration of all HHSRS hazards are found in the Dullingham Villages, The Swaffhams and Downham Villages.

Enforcement action to remove hazards in all properties, irrespective of tenure, is available to local authorities and this is led by legislation and through our adopted Private Sector Housing Enforcement Policy 2019. The policy identifies that the Council will provide awareness, advice and assistance wherever possible to the public, businesses and organisations to help them meet their legal obligations before embarking on the enforcement route, but that enforcement action will be taken when it is proportionate to do so. Last year we successfully resolved 70 requests for assistance from private sector housing tenants with concerns about their housing conditions or with outstanding repairs.

Addressing hazards in owner occupied properties through enforcement is inherently difficult, but possible. Fuel poverty is being addressed by all the measures highlighted in the previous answer.

The Housing Adaptations and Repairs Policy 2019 allows for energy efficiency measures to be grant aided under the Discretionary Special Purpose Assistance Grant for those eligible to apply.

Question from Councillor Charlotte Cane:

1. How many dwellings in East Cambridgeshire have been granted planning consent by the Local Planning Authority but not completed?
2. How many units of social housing have been completed in East Cambridgeshire in each of the last five years?

Response from Leader of the Council, Councillor Anna Bailey:

As at 1 April 2019, there were 5,720 dwellings with permissions not yet completed.

The Annual Monitoring report is being finalised and is due to be published within the next month which will provide the April 2020 figure.

The number of social housing units that have been completed in East Cambridgeshire in each of the last five years is as follows:

2014/15- 19
2015/16- 54
2016/17- 11
2017/18- 88
2018/19- 63

Again, the Annual Monitoring report to be published within the next month will provide the 2019/20 figure.

Question from Councillor Lorna Dupré:

- What proposals are being put to the Combined Authority for Market Town Masterplan projects in the towns of Littleport and Soham and the city of Ely? Who has been involved in putting together these proposed projects? Please supply a statement for each of these three settlements showing dates of consultation, which individuals and organisations have been involved, and links to the consultation materials used.
- What response is the Council making to the Government's *Raising accessibility standards for new homes* consultation, and how are members being involved in making that response?

Response from Leader of the Council, Councillor Anna Bailey:

Market Town Masterplans – Cllr Lorna Dupre

The Council will be submitting bids to the Combined Authority in November and January. The details of the January bids are not yet finalised so this update focuses on the bids that we intend to submit in November.

Consultation in the form of meetings and engagement has taken place across all three Market Towns which has enabled the development of the bids so far.

The bids focus on COVID Recovery and Accelerating Growth.

Littleport

A single bid will be submitted for Littleport for a contribution to the roundabout to accelerate the delivery of a housing and employment site off the A10.

Officers have worked with District, County and Parish Councillors to develop the bid and have also engaged with businesses and developers.

Ely

There will be multiple submissions in Ely which will require further consultation and engagement if the bids are successful.

Street furniture enhancement - this is being worked up by officers and comprises of street furniture replacements throughout the city centre and out to the riverside.

Steeple Row - officers are working with Ely Perspective to bring this long-standing project to fruition. It is something that I have long supported and been involved in and would be very pleased to see come to fruition.

Ely Town Centre Study - if successful this study will be a useful evidence document that will help shape the future of the city centre for Ely. During the process key stakeholders, City of Ely Council, the Cathedral, Shopkeepers, Ely Markets, and Businesses will be engaged to inform the study.

Connectivity - there will be a bid which seeks to improve the digital connectivity in Ely.

The District Council, City of Ely Council and the Cathedral have long standing ambitions to explore what could be done to connect the Cathedral with the city centre. It is intended that a bid is submitted to the CA for funds to enable the Cathedral to carry out a feasibility study to inform a plan that would enable this to be achieved. If successful, there will be opportunity for all relevant stakeholders to become involved in the feasibility study.

To date Officers have been working with Cllr Every, representatives from businesses, Ely Perspective and CCC Highways.

Soham

Multiple bids will be submitted in Soham.

Business Space project - Officers have been working with Councillors and the Town Council to formulate a bid that seeks to secure business space in Ely (details are commercially sensitive at this stage).

High Street Enhancements - this is being worked up by officers and comprises street furniture replacements and improvements throughout the town centre.

Digital Connectivity - there will be a bid which seeks to further improve the digital connectivity in Soham.

To date Officers have been working with Soham District Councillors [all Soham invited to initial meeting to discuss], Soham Town Council, County Councillors and CCC Highways.

Officers are still working through the bid submissions and there will be a detailed note (which parts of will need to be kept in confidence) provided to all Members prior to the bids being submitted to the Combined Authority.

Raising Accessibility Standards – Cllr Lorna Dupre

The consultation for this closes in December 2020. The Council will be submitting a consultation response. If Members have anything specific to include in the response please contact Richard Kay, Strategic Planning Manager.

Question from Councillor Simon Harries:

- What action does the agreement with the Ministry of Defence for the purchase of the former MOD housing at Princess of Wales Hospital permit the Ministry to take in the event that this Council's Planning Committee refuses planning consent for development in Phase 2 on this site?
- What deadlines does the agreement with the Ministry of Defence for the purchase of the former MOD housing at Princess of Wales Hospital set regarding Phase 2 of the development for (a) submission of a planning application; (b) granting of a planning application; (c) completion of construction on the site?

Response from Leader of the Council, Councillor Anna Bailey:

The deadlines with the MoD for the purchase of the former housing at the Ely site regarding Phase 2 of the development are as follows:

- a. Submission of planning application - 31 July 2020
- b. Planning consent - 31 July 2022
- c. There is no contract deadline relating to completion of construction of the site