

PUBLIC QUESTIONS AND MEMBER QUESTIONS ON NOTICE

1 QUESTIONS BY THE PUBLIC

(a) From Mr G Congram

The Proper Officer reports that, pursuant to Council Procedure Rule 10, the following question of the Portfolio Holder for Council Tax Collection, Benefits and Strategic Housing Functions, Cllr Mrs T J Capon, has been received from Mr G Congram of 12 South Avenue, Hullbridge, Essex SS5 6HA:-

‘With the implementation of the "breakthrough" housing project launched by the Council in partnership with Pathmeads Housing Association, (as published within the Yellow Advertiser 8th July 2010). How many properties has the Council and Pathmead identified that could utilise this facility and how does this impact the Housing Allocations detailed in the Core Strategy?’

(b) From Mr B Guyett

The Proper Officer reports that, pursuant to Council Procedure Rule 10, the following question of the Portfolio Holder for Young Persons, Adult Services, Community Care and Well-Being, Health and Community safety, Cllr Mrs L A Butcher, has been received from Mr B Guyett of 2 Tonbridge Road, Hockley, Essex SS5 5HL:-

‘Various statistics clearly demonstrate that South East Essex PCT (SEE PCT) have been focusing investment on an area in Central Southend within a 3 mile radius of the PCT's offices, to the detriment of the rest of their area, including the whole of Rochford District.

Is Rochford District Council happy for the District to remain a second tier, NHS 'backwater' or will they use the opportunity of the NHS reorganisation, announced by the government on 12 July, to press the new health authority for a fairer and more appropriate investment policy which meets the needs of Rochford District?’

(c) From Mr T Gleadall

The Proper Officer reports that, pursuant to Council Procedure Rule 10, the following question of the Portfolio Holder for Planning and Transportation, Cllr K H Hudson, has been received from Mr T Gleadall of 2 Wood End, Hockley, Essex SS5 4QL:-

‘Assuming that RDC has the opportunity, based on the Coalition Government's new policies, to re-write the Core Strategy in relation to housing numbers and allocations, can you guarantee that the new

version will be: more feasible in terms of infrastructure by ensuring that adequate highway improvements (including railway bridges) are in place before any major housing developments are implemented; more transparent to residents and businesses (no hidden numbers and impacts); and more resident friendly with reference to retaining the countryside and greenbelt that makes the District a highly desirable place to live?'

2 QUESTIONS BY MEMBERS

The Proper Officer reports that, pursuant to Council Procedure Rule 12.2, the following questions have been received from Cllr C I Black:-

(a) Of the Portfolio Holder for Planning and Transportation

'There has been a recent High Court ruling that Tower Hamlets Council acted unlawfully when it granted planning permission for a fast food takeaway because Councillors had voted in favour of permission after being wrongly directed that they could not take account of the proximity of the local secondary school.

How is this likely to affect planning policy in Rochford District and does it have any repercussions on the recent planning consent for commercial units in Priory Chase, Rayleigh, near St Nicholas School?'

(b) Of the Portfolio Holder for Planning and Transportation

'Can you please give an update on how the Liberal Conservative Coalition Government's new policies are impacting on our Local Development Framework? In particular, will this Council be changing the proposed housing figures established under the previous Labour government? If we reduce the overall housing figures for our District - something that most residents that I represent are hoping for - how can we best ensure that the housing that *is* built provides the affordable homes that local people need?'

(c) Of the Portfolio Holder for Service Development/Improvement and Performance Management

'Does the Council keep any record of emails sent to Members via the rochford.gov.uk email addresses that we are given?'

Albert Bugeja

Head of Legal, Estates and Member Services

Background Papers:-

None

For further information please contact John Bostock on:-

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If you would like this report in large print, Braille or another language please contact 01702 546366.