

Uttlesford District Council Meeting 10 October 2023

Written Questions to Members of the Executive and Committee Chairs

Written responses to be published on 9 October 2023

1. By Councillor Loughlin to Councillor Hargreaves – Portfolio Holder for Finance and the Economy:

“In view of the credit agency, Moody’s, look at local government finances where Uttlesford was placed ninth on a list of councils’ borrowing to income ratio, have any of Uttlesford’s debtors failed to service their debt and has this council failed to service theirs?”

2. By Councillor Dean to Councillor Hargreaves – Portfolio Holder for Finance and the Economy:

“What steps has and will the Leader of Council continue to take to deal with the reputational damage to this Council following the recent publication by the national ratings agency, Moody’s, of a report about councils with high levels of debt? The report placed Uttlesford District Council amongst the ten worst indebted councils in England relative to their financial size.”

3. By Councillor Silcock to Councillor Coote – Portfolio Holder for Housing:

- 1) “How many houses will the Administration build/ acquire during the lifetime of this Council?”
- 2) “Could the portfolio holder provide an update of the relationship between the Council and Uttlesford Norse. Further can minutes of the partnership board meetings be provided on a regular basis?”

4. By Councillor Sell to Councillor Reeve – Portfolio Holder for the Environment and Climate Change:

“What have been the % of missed collection for domestic and garden waste and can this information be provided on a monthly basis for 2023?”

5. By Councillor Sell to Councillor Lees – Leader of the Council

“What were the full time equivalent (fte) for UDC employees as at 1/9/23 compared to 1/9/22?”

6. By Councillor Barker to Councillor Lees – Leader of the Council

“At the August Council meeting I asked Cllr Lees to write, in her capacity as leader of the Council, to Bloor Homes regarding soundproofing to the Electricity Substation at Mortimer’s Gate. At the time she responded that all possible avenues had been explored. I am delighted that she took another look at this, followed my suggestion, and did write an open letter to Bloor Homes that she shared with Councillors.

Can I ask whether Bloor Homes have officially replied to the Council as to how much, or what percentage of the costs involved they are prepared to fund to remedy the situation for residents?

They were due to be discussing this at a Board meeting in late September.”

7. By Councillor Barker to Councillor Hargreaves – Portfolio Holder for Finance and the Economy

“Aspire (CRP) Ltd has not submitted its accounts for the 2021-2022 year by the due date of 31st March 2023.

Can I ask the reason/s for the delay, accompanied with a timeline for these accounts to be submitted, and what impact this delay has on each of the Officers/ Directors of the Company?”

8. By Councillor Gregory to Councillor Coote – Portfolio Holder for Housing

“What progress has been made on remediation of the problems discovered at Reynolds Ct, the cost to date and the extent to which those costs have been recovered?”

9. By Councillor Moran to Councillor Evans – Portfolio Holder for Planning

“Can you update councillors as to progress in regards to recruiting additional enforcement officers for UDC, including details on how the backlog in enforcement cases is being actively and effectively reduced, and, to help us understand the current situation, how many open enforcement cases does UDC have at present?”

10. By Councillor Martin to Councillor Hargreaves – Portfolio Holder for Finance and the Economy

1. “Can the CBRE report, which supports the uplift in asset valuation be provided to the council for review?”
2. Why, when the investment is stated at the historical cost basis, is there still such a material uplift in the value of the investment – it’s only approximately £250K less than under the fair value method. If this reflects additional investment, which represents the cost uplift, why is it treated as profit rather than simply being capitalized into the balance of the asset?”