

Uttlesford District Council Meeting

11 March 2024

Written Questions to Members of the Executive and Committee Chairs

Written responses to be published on 8 March 2024

1. By Councillor Gregory to Councillor Coote – Portfolio Holder for Housing:

“To ask Cllr Coote 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?”

2. By Councillor Barker to Councillor Evans – Portfolio Holder for Planning:

“I note that the Council is still using Place Services at Essex County Council to provide Listed Building advice. Can I ask what progress has been made towards recruiting our own Listed Building Officer.”

3. By Councillor Barker to Councillor Lees – Leader of the Council:

“Can the leader confirm that the regulation 19 consultation will see the number of new housing allocations reduce by c2000 as a result of the additional permissions between April 1st 2023 and March 31st 2024.”

4. By Councillor Moran to Councillor Evans – Portfolio Holder for Planning:

“On inspection of the records it is clear that there was a large spend on agency planning officers during the period April to December 2023. Can I please ask the cabinet member responsible for planning how many of UDCs planning officers are direct employees of the council and how many are agency and relief?”

5. By Councillor Moran to Councillor Evans – Portfolio Holder for Planning:

“Following on from the recruitment of additional planning enforcement staff can I please ask the relevant cabinet member how many active planning enforcements there as of 1st of March 2023 and as at 31st of December 2023. How many have been closed since then and of those how many were deemed ‘not expedient’ to follow up.”

6. By Councillor Gooding to Councillor Reeve – Portfolio Holder for Climate Change and the Environment :

“Street Cleansing of pavements and footpaths in our towns, villages and rural areas is the responsibility of Uttlesford District Council not Essex Highways but I am receiving a significant growth in complaints that the footpaths are contaminated with debris that is not being cleared. Will the portfolio holder please confirm the following: -

Whether he has sufficient budget and other resource to properly complete this work and what the level of that budget is and whether the capital equipment required to complete this work is adequate and in a good state of repair?

Whether the use of any vehicles designed to sweep the gutters and gulleys has been affected by the hiatus in the vehicle operating licence.

What efforts are being made to reassure the residents of Uttlesford that this function is both adequate and being properly implemented.

7. By Councillor Dean to Councillor Lees – Leader of the Council:

“My recollection of the last meeting of Council on February 26th is that the Leader of Council reported enthusiastically about her experiences during the recent waste and recycling service failure.

The Leader reported that she had been well informed about absences and changes to services in her own ward, and this had enabled her to tell her constituents what service standard and service absences to expect.

Would Cllr Lees confirm that all Members of Council who wished to be similarly briefed on the impact in each of their wards of what some have called Bingate were appropriately so informed?”

8. By Councillor Sell to Councillor Hargreaves – Portfolio Holder for Finance and the Economy:

“One of the consequences of Blueprint Uttlesford is an increasing reliance on fixed term contracts for our employees. a) What is the current proportion of staff employed on such contracts? b) Is there a danger that the replacement of permanent contracts with fixed term contracts will have a negative impact upon the quality of service delivery?”

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

“How many complaints have been received in 2024 regarding the non-collection of waste?”

