

# Uttlesford District Council Meeting

## 23 April 2024

### Written Questions to Members of the Executive and Committee Chairs

#### Written responses to be published on 22 April 2024

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

"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 Gregory to Councillor Coote – Portfolio Holder for Housing and Equalities:**

"At Scrutiny in late 2022, Mr Hermitage explained that criminal sanctions were possibly available in this matter- what further investigations into pursuing these have been undertaken please given the apparent negligence and disputed £68000?"

**3. By Councillor Gooding to Councillor Evans – Portfolio Holder for Planning:**

"The outcome of the Grenfell Fire Enquiry has resulted in Registered Building Inspectors being required to improve their levels of competency and it was intended that Local Authorities ensure that their staff be accredited by 6<sup>th</sup> April 2024. However, this has now been extended to 6<sup>th</sup> July 2024 but this extension is only applicable to building control professionals who have registered as Class 1 RBI by the 6<sup>th</sup> April. Failure to achieve this status within the staff cohort would result in Local Authorities being unable to offer Building Control Services.

Would the relevant Portfolio Holder please confirm that Uttlesford Building Control Staff will have the necessary accreditation to ensure that there is no break in the Building Control Service Offer?

**4. By Councillor Gooding to Councillor Hargreaves – Portfolio Holder for Finance and the Economy:**

“It is noted that an additional person is being recruited to sit on the Investment Board.

Would the Portfolio Holder please explain what remit this post would hold and what benefit would be achieved given the assumed cessation of further Commercial Investment by UDC at this time?”

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

“Is the Portfolio Holder satisfied with the current resilience of this service area?”

**6. By Councillor Sell to Councillor Evans – Portfolio Holder for Planning:**

“Can the portfolio holder give an assurance that in future meetings of the local plan working group will have written reports by officers as opposed to reliance on oral reports?”

**7. By Councillor Lemon to Councillor Reeve – Portfolio Holder for the Environment and Climate Change:**

“On Friday 5<sup>th</sup>. April there were hardly any refuse bins collected in Hatfield Heath or White Roding. A disaster in such windy weather and refuse being blown about the village. I phoned on Monday 8<sup>th</sup> April to UDC (The phone call took 40 mins to be answered!) I was informed that the bins would be collected on Tuesday 9<sup>th</sup>- This did not happen no bins were collected so late on that day I rang to see when the refuse from the whole area would be collected-the residents in my area are getting very frustrated with the situation.(Phone call 15 mins this time) Sadly they could not tell me when there would be a collection of our bins. It is now the 10<sup>th</sup> April and our bins have not been collected!

Why are our bins not being collected and why does it take so long to speak to an officer in the environmental department?”

**8. By Councillor Dean to Councillor Evans – Portfolio Holder for Planning:**

“There are signs that the preparation of the Local Plan is not being conducted in an open and honest manner. Will (?) give Council an explanation of concerns expressed at the LP meeting on April 10th about the absence of written reports and assure Council with evidence that progress in completing a credible Local Plan is on target and is sound?”

**9. By Councillor Silcock to Councillor Coote – Portfolio Holder for Housing and Equalities:**

“How is the council ensuring the robustness of its monitoring processes for the current repair service provider, Uttlesford Norse while actively seeking an alternative provider?”