

# WYCOMBE DISTRICT COUNCIL

## COUNCIL MEETING

Monday 6 October 2014

### AGENDA ITEM 6

#### Questions from Members

#### 1. Question from Councillor B Pollock to the Leader of the Council

On the 20th October the Cabinet will be making some vital decisions about the future of the Reserved Sites in Wycombe District. Can the Leader confirm that any decisions the Cabinet make will then come to the Full Council for confirmation so that all members will have the opportunity to vote on these highly important and far reaching decisions?

**Verbal reply to be given by the Leader of the Council, Councillor R Scott**

#### 2. Question from Councillor A Turner to the Leader of the Council

Whilst Wycombe District Council continues to promote many millions of pounds of investment into High Wycombe, loudly trumpeting its core strategy of regenerating town centres (£60M of inward investment in the Hughenden Quarter alone) Princes Risborough faces the closure of its information/tourist centre, which will be replaced with a small counter tucked away in a corner of the library. Key services such as housing and benefit enquiries are to be axed. By removing this minimal (though very public) support for the Town, what kind of message do you believe that sends out? "We'll spend millions on regenerating Wycombe, but all Risborough is going to get is thousands more houses?"

**Verbal reply to be given by the Leader of the Council, Councillor R Scott**

#### 3. Question from Councillor M Knight to the Cabinet Member for Planning & Sustainability

The reserved sites for housing development which are to be brought to Cabinet later this month for approval are predominantly on the east side of High Wycombe. The effect of these combined developments will have an impact greater than just the immediate site specific impacts. Would you support the idea of a comprehensive east Wycombe strategy looking at the bigger picture across that side of town such as housing mix, environmental issues, economic development and urban infrastructure?

**Verbal reply to be given by the Cabinet Member for Planning & Sustainability, Councillor N Marshall**

#### 4. Question from Councillor G Hall to the Cabinet Member for Environment

The introduction of the new ANPR system has proven controversial, I believe it is a big ask to expect a local population many of whom are uncomfortable with technology to embrace

and understand fully how the system operates without them receiving hefty penalties by way of fines. It is also apparent that the technology in some instances is not reading and recognising car number plates creating queues and confusion at machines. Furthermore frustration has apparently lead in some instances to a decreased footfall in some businesses.

As a reasonable local authority what is WDC doing to alleviate the situation, are penalties and fines being wavered and are we working with the customers and businesses to make sure the whole project runs far more smoothly than it has so far?

**Verbal reply to be given by the Cabinet Member for Environment, Councillor Mrs J Teesdale**

**5. Question from Councillor R Metcalfe to the Cabinet Member for Planning & Sustainability**

The NPPF definition of sustainable development includes 3 roles for planning: economic, social and environmental. The ingredients within 'a social role' include meeting the development need; creating a high quality built environment, with accessible local services, that reflect the community's needs and support its health, social and cultural well-being.

In the interest of sustainable development and recognising the importance of the social role within it, what areas have already been, and what areas will be, designated as Local Green Spaces, as part of the WDC Local Plan, and how does the Council see these Local Green Spaces assisting with delivering sustainable development out to 2031?

**Verbal reply to be given by the Cabinet Member for Planning & Sustainability, Councillor N Marshall**

**6. Question from Councillor R Colomb to the Cabinet Member for Environment**

Has your Waste Team established the life expectancy of the wheelie bins issued to householders?

If a wheelie bin fails, and some of our black/grey bins have been in use for nearly 15 years, who bears the cost of replacement?

**Verbal reply to be given by the Cabinet Member for Environment, Councillor Mrs J E Teesdale**

**7. Question from Councillor T Snaith to the Cabinet Member for Economic Development & Regeneration**

Can the cabinet member advise what this Council is doing to support businesses on the Airpark? What more could we be doing to assist these businesses to grow and employ more local people?

**Verbal reply to be given by the Cabinet Member for Economic Development & Regeneration, Councillor A Green**

**8. Question from Councillor B Pearce to the Leader of the Council**

Does the Leader of the Council agree with me, that Wycombe Air Park is a place of excellence and has establishments employing highly skilled and trained work forces?

This should be encouraged in every way.

Do you think the Air Park should remain operational as it is now?

**Verbal reply to be given by the Leader of the Council, Councillor R Scott**

**9. Question from Councillor M Hanif the Leader of the Council**

Can you please inform us about the key performance indicators and measures used to assess the WDC's performance with the service delivery to its local residents and how does the current year progress compare with the year 2012 and 2013?

**Verbal reply to be given by the Leader of the Council, Councillor R Scott**

**10. Question from Councillor Ms J Wassell to the Cabinet Member for Planning & Sustainability**

At the meeting of Bucks County Council on 18th September the Cabinet Member for Transport stated that "there is continuing monitoring of junction 3 on the M40" in relation to the safety of this junction. Do you share her concerns about the safety of the existing junction 3 and would you support a full study into the opening up of this junction as an unrestricted interchange?

**Verbal reply to be given by the Cabinet Member for Planning & Sustainability, Councillor N Marshall**

**11. Question from Councillor B Pollock to the Leader of the Council**

At the Cabinet meeting on 22nd September it was reported that in the Financial Year 2014-5 there is a projected likely underspend of £850,000. Would the Leader agree with me that one of the most useful expenditures members can make is that within their ward budgets and will he therefore undertake to recommend that, should a surplus remain at the end of the financial year, ward budgets should be doubled for 2015-6 as a one off decision?

**Verbal reply to be given by the Leader of the Council, Councillor R Scott**

**12. Question from Councillor R Colomb to the Cabinet Member for Environment**

The inability to maintain revenue from car parks during their conversion to ANPR is concerning. The period when free parking was available was over a week in Liston Street,

Marlow. Could the Cabinet Member advise the total number of days free parking available in all car parks converted and an estimate of the loss of revenue?

**Verbal reply to be given by the Cabinet Member for Environment, Councillor Mrs J E Teesdale**