

# COUNCIL MEETING – 22 SEPTEMBER 2021

## CABINET QUESTION TIME

### 1. Question from Councillor I Roberts to the Leader of the Council

It is concerning that a relatively high number of meetings have been cancelled over the past few months, including important Cabinet, Policy Board and other committees. This must give our citizens the impression that the Council is doing nothing and must be concerning for all members. Is it due to the pandemic effect or not having any new policies to deal with?

Can the Leader give an update on the administration's proposals to deal with this apparent lack of work to set the future for the Council and the Chelmsford citizens?

**Cabinet Member to respond**

### 2. Question from Councillor K Bentley to the Cabinet Member for Sustainable Development

Could the cabinet member for sustainable development please explain how Countryside Properties can continue with their proposal to set up a land trust and charge future residents of SGS10 in SWF to provide open space management when they will already be paying council tax and special expenses for this service? I was under the impression that our adopted "MAKING SPACES SPD", developed by the Policy Board and agreed by the Cabinet, made it mandatory for developers to hand over open spaces for the Council to manage. This avoids us having a two-tier payment system within the town - something that will divide SWF residents rather than integrate them.

**Cabinet Member to respond**

### 3. Question from Councillor K Bentley to the Cabinet Member for Fairer Chelmsford

Would the member of cabinet responsible for business please give Council an update about vacant retail and office properties owned by the Council? Is there any new interest in taking up lets - particularly in The Meadows?

**Cabinet Member to respond**

#### 4. Question from Councillor R Hyland to the Cabinet Member for Fairer Chelmsford

Would the member of cabinet responsible please give Council an update on this administration's, Our Chelmsford, Our Plan **ambition**, to “*Develop and implement a new strategic approach to improve the supply and accessibility of affordable homes?*” (Pg5 - *What we will do*). And specifically, about steps they have taken or are planning, to make housing genuinely affordable to residents looking to live in Chelmsford? And can you provide the statistics for Monthly Affordable Housing Starts and Completions during this administration's tenure? And, how does this compare to the previous incumbents? Also, can you give the Council, this administration's definition of genuinely affordable housing? And finally, are there any interventions in the market that this Council is, or could consider, that would make housing in Chelmsford genuinely affordable?

**Cabinet Member to respond**

#### 5. Question from Councillor W Daden to the Cabinet Members for Fairer Chelmsford and Greener and Safer Chelmsford

For the benefit of the Council and the public, could we please have an update on the traffic order and when parking charges will be implemented at Hylands Park?

Will the detailed ways for discounts be circulated to parish clerks and ensure our website has a highly sensitive search so residents can easily find Hylands parking information and ways to pay?

Earlier this year, CCC employed consultants to maximise profit Hylands Estate, could we please have a brief update tonight and the reports be circulated?

**Cabinet Member to respond**

#### 6. Question from Councillor s Dobson to the Leader of the Council

During the pandemic it was apparent that the attendance at Council meetings of both members of the public and other Councillors increased when Council meetings were held virtually.

Now that we are required to attend meetings in person – whether we agree with that or not – have members considered holding hybrid meetings going forward? The attendance of the public (who normally would not make the effort to physically attend) is surely good for local democracy, and also other councillors who again would not usually attend, will be able to be involved. We surely need to plan forward for when things do return to a semblance of normality and I would be interested to know members' views on whether this format would be possible.

**Cabinet Member to respond**