

**SUPPLEMENTARY DOCUMENTS FOR CABINET  
Thursday 4 November 2021 at 7.30pm  
Council Chamber - Civic Centre**

The attached documents are due to be considered at the meeting listed above and were unavailable for circulation when the agenda for the meeting was published. The agenda items to which the documents relates are noted below.

**AGENDA**

5. Written Questions from the Public (Pages 2 - 3)

To receive any questions from members of the public in accordance with Rule 10 of the Council Procedure Rules.

6. Written Questions from Councillors (Pages 4 - 6)

To receive any questions from Councillors in accordance with Rule 11 of the Council Procedure Rules.

# Cabinet – 4 November 2021

## Questions from the Public

### **1 Jake Shepherd to Councillor Dan Swords (Portfolio Holder for Regeneration):**

Given the role of Carridon Property in presiding over Terminus House and Templefields House, two (of the twelve) Permitted Development Rights (PDR) conversions which have been described by one Carridon resident as "an open prison", why has this Council welcomed Carridon as the official 2021 partner sponsor?

### **Reply from Councillor Dan Swords (Portfolio Holder for Regeneration):**

As I have made clear many times, it was because of the previous administration's failure to act in introducing an Article 4 directive when they should have done so that allowed for office-to-residential conversions to take place in this town. I never heard that administration or anyone in it to apologise for their failure to act, nor did they purchase Terminus House when it was offered to the Council for the grand total of £1. For both of those reasons the issues that are faced are because of the previous administration's failure to act.

We are acting and we have applied to massively strengthen the Article 4 directive so that never again can this be allowed to happen in such a way. I look forward to updating councillors and residents on our progress in tackling the issues left by the previous administration in this area.

Specifically on the Harlow Town Centre Awards I am sure Mr Shepherd would agree that they were a roaring success with over 120 people attending and celebrating all that is great about our town centre.

Not only was it a roaring success, but it came at no expense to the taxpayer as 12 very generous sponsors paid for the fantastic event.

Sponsorship was open to all and Carridon were one of 12 sponsors. Sponsorship is not an endorsement by any of the partnership.

I believe we must deal with the world as it is, and not as we may wish it to be. That's why it is important to actively engage with all building, landowners and businesses to ensure that we deliver and do not hit the road block of no communication. This approach is the best way to deliver one of the primary ambitions for the town centre to be a hub for the community that everyone can share a renewed sense of pride in.

**2 Jake Shepherd to Councillor Michael Hardware (Portfolio Holder for Strategic Growth):**

As the sole Youth Representative of HGGT's Village 1 Master Planning Working Group, I quote the terms of reference for the group: "In the event of a member organisation failing to attend two consecutive meetings the group can agree to inviting a different organisation or individual".

Cllr Michael Hardware, the named single representative on behalf of Harlow District Council, has failed (without offering any apologies to the Chair or via any other members) to attend two consecutive meetings. Will this administration take action to represent Harlow District Council within the collaborative design process, which directly seeks to represent and respond to the views and concerns of local residents?

**Reply from Councillor Michael Hardware (Portfolio Holder for Strategic Growth):**

Yes, I was invited in May this year by Places for People, the Gilston developer, to join several groups to participate in the delivery of its engagement strategy to support the various planning applications it is progressing.

The master planning processes for all the developments around Harlow are important, especially so the seven villages at Gilston as this is where the majority of the growth for Harlow is going to come. Given the physical proximity of Gilston to Harlow and our shared vision for the Garden Town, they need to reflect our aspirations and be designed to be integrated with Harlow ensuring new residents feel part of this community, and that existing Harlow residents view them as an integral part of the town.

I have been unable to attend the first two meetings I was invited to: one in July and the other in September. I had prior engagements for each. I had no deputy to send in my stead and an officer representative was not allowed. Harlow Council is currently in discussion with East Hertfordshire District Council about ensuring appropriate representation.

Hopefully we will be able to resolve this with the future meetings to ensure Harlow can participate fully.

# **Cabinet – 4 November 2021**

## **Questions from Councillors**

### **1 Councillor Chris Vince to Councillor Russell Perrin (Leader of the Council):**

Can the administration explain why Harlow's bid for the levelling up fund was unsuccessful and what re-assurances can they give that when the second wave of funding becomes available in Spring of next year Harlow will be successful?

#### **Reply from Councillor Russell Perrin (Leader of the Council):**

Harlow Council's bid for Playhouse Quarter and Stone Cross Square was submitted in the first round of the government competition for the Levelling Up Fund.

In June, we secured £23.7 million from the Government to kick start key regeneration projects. We submitted a bid as part of the Levelling Up Fund for further investment to support our regeneration plans.

Our bid was scored very highly by Government officials and we have been invited into the second round of funding expected in the Spring of next year. The Council strongly welcomes this as it gives our new administration more time to ensure our bid fits into our wider regeneration plans.

### **2 Councillor Tony Edwards to Councillor Joel Charles (Deputy Leader and Portfolio Holder for Community Resilience):**

Noting the next meeting of the Covid Recovery Working Group has now been scheduled for the 9<sup>th</sup> of November. Could the Community Resilience Portfolio Holder explain what he understands to be the terms of reference of the Working Group and why the Group has only had one meeting (28<sup>th</sup> June) since the Conservative administration took office in May of this year.

#### **Reply from Councillor Joel Charles (Deputy Leader and Portfolio Holder for Community Resilience):**

At Annual Full Council, the working group meeting dates for the municipal year were agreed formally. It was agreed by Annual Full Council that meetings would only be held on a quarterly basis. The September meeting was postponed because it clashed with another meeting. At the point where we were planning for that meeting to be moved, infection rates in the town had dropped and the governance cycle meant that a meeting was not able to be arranged. It was agreed that the Covid Recovery Working Group would meet early this month. I

can confirm that the working group will be on the 9<sup>th</sup> of November. Members of the working group should receive the agenda shortly.

The Council continues to monitor Covid-19 infection levels in the town carefully and stands ready to work closely with all community leaders to do everything possible to safeguard public health if circumstances change.

The terms of the working group are:-

- (i) To advise the Portfolio Holder on the proposals contained within the developing pandemic action plan including short, medium and long term objectives and measures taking into account the changing landscape.
- (ii) To provide a forum for consultation on measures and strategy within the pandemic action plan.
- (iii) To advise and comment on work with regional health officials to prepare for and mitigate any further outbreak or second wave of infection in Harlow;
- (iv) To identify Council-related impacts that may require additional resources or service delivery methods; and
- (v) To provide a focus for:

*Developing greater community resilience*

- community action, cohesion, and greater resilience.
- supporting the recovery of BAME communities, clinically vulnerable and other marginalised groups
- engagement with the voluntary sector and faith-based communities

*Educating the public about health risks and working to mitigate future outbreaks*

- preparation and planning to ensure, with other public sector agencies, that in the face of future outbreaks or emergencies, all residents are given the best possible health protection and outcomes, particularly those at risk of health inequalities.
- community education on the on-going public health risk and to mitigate future Outbreaks

*Advancing the post-COVID local economy*

- proposals for new ways of working
- business engagement
- innovative ways of growing the local economy

(v) To harness data and monitor recovery performance to ensure that services delivered post COVID, meet the changing needs of residents and businesses.