

COUNCIL MEETING 25 NOVEMBER 2021

QUESTIONS RECEIVED From the Public:

Mr David Turver to ask:

To the Portfolio Holder for Place:

- 1) Hart needs a revised Local Plan in place by five years from adoption, which is April 2025. Various steps will need to be completed such as Examination and various consultations. The Council will also need to find sites to meet the housing delivery test and make adjustments resulting from new household projections due to be published in 2023. The Inspector also said that "appropriate and proportionate area/site assessments [and] viability testing would need to be done in an impartial manner". Can you sketch out the broad activities and timelines required to meet the April 2025 deadline?
- 2) At the September Council meeting we were promised that the Shapley Heath survey results were going to be published "in full" (subject to GDPR check) "shortly". Most reasonable people would have expected "shortly" to mean within a couple of weeks. They are still being kept secret, with a vague commitment to publish sometime in the New Year. Can you give a precise deadline for when these important results will be made available to the taxpayers of Hart who paid for the survey?

To Portfolio Holder for Corporate Services and Finance (or suitable deputy)

- 3) Back in September we were promised a "a business case for the cost benefit analysis of starting to commence the preparation for the next local plan review". Subsequent papers have been notable because they contained no costs and no benefits of stopping Shapley Heath and changing course. Are we to assume that all of the FY21/22 budget for Shapley Heath has been spent already, despite the project being terminated early, and so no savings will be made, or is this just another example of weak financial controls?

To the Leader of the Council

- 4) As you know, Hart is facing a significant structural budget deficit for the foreseeable future. The Level 1 and Level 2 savings identified so far do not fill the financial black hole. Nearby East Hampshire and Havant councils get along fine with just one CEO and senior management team shared between them. Yet Hart, one of the smallest local authorities in the country, has two CEOs. What actions are you taking to ensure this shameful waste of taxpayers' money does not continue?