

Full Council 29 November 2022

Members Questions

Questions from Cllr Daws

1 - Question to Chair of Standards Committee Cllr Linda Petherick

During the full council meeting in September the Monitoring Officer approached me and informed me I had a pecuniary interest and if I took part in the debate on the Alexandra Theatre and Market Hall that would constitute a criminal offence. Can you confirm if the Monitoring Officers statement was correct and if not, why he made the approach and passed on misleading information.

Response from Chair of Standards Committee

Yes I can confirm that the Monitoring Officers guidance was correct.

2 - Question for Cllr Nina Jefferies

Can you explain how your consistent refusals to allow me, in my role as an elected Teignbridge Cllr, to attend or simply observe the online meeting of what was described as the 'Steering Group', in relation to TDC's plans for the Market Hall and Alexandra Theatre were consistent with the Local Government Act 1972 (amended) and the The Local Authorities (Executive Arrangements) (Meetings and Access to Information) (England) Regulations 2012.

Response from Executive Member for Economy and Jobs

A verbal response will be given at the meeting.

3 – Question relating the spend on the FHSF project to date - So to either the Leader, Cllr Keeling or Cllr Jefferies.

Can the council confirm the spend to date on the FHSF development and what spend is committed to get to RIBA 4 as outlined in the project plan (the report presented at the EGM in the consultants report outline at more than £500k already spent. Can the public be informed at what point Full Council signed off this spend and what risks are associated with this if planning permission is not granted or successfully challenged?

Response from the Leader

The amount of spend to date is £632,003 across all four projects. This is broken down to £301,248 on the cinema, £284,089 on the Market Hall, £18,106 on National Cycle Network 2 and £28,560 on Queen Street

The spend 'committed' to get to RIBA Stage 4 is £565,741. None of this money has been spent yet. The original timeline for the projects included the work to commencing Stage 4 design already. However, following the Notice of Motion to Council in July 2022, officers have paused that work pending the outcome of the

Extraordinary Council meeting of 17 November and Government sign-off of the revised business case.

Full Council signed off the spend relating to the Future High Street Fund projects at the meetings of 22 April 2021, 22 February 2022 and 17 November 2022. This was all listed under 'Background papers' to the report listed as Item 9 at the Extraordinary Full Council meeting on 17 November 2022.

The risks associated with the projects and recommendations, including the impact of delays, are set out in Committee reports. Members have had opportunity to scrutinise the finances and spend profile of the projects, including going into Part 2 when considering sensitive information.

4 - Question for Cllr Connett

Can you confirm that TDC will consider proposals for an alternative multiscreen cinema design, drafted by community groups to work within TDC planning policies, if the proposal can achieve the broad support of the creative sector of Newton Abbot.

Response from the Leader

The delivery of a cinema in Newton Abbot is reliant on external grant funding to enable the structural shell to be built in addition to an operator committing to commercial terms in order to achieve the Council's target minimum rate of return of 1%. The current secured grant funding package is conditional on monies being spent by end March 2024 and there is insufficient time to deliver an alternative scheme within this timeframe. It is not possible to pursue an alternative scheme in the absence of sufficient external funding and a commercial tenant.

As a Local Planning Authority, Teignbridge Council is required to 'consider' all planning applications. Alongside that responsibility, the council would also need to separately consider matters relating to its property and land holdings where proposals are made for council assets

5 -Would the leader of the council confirm he would resign with immediate effect if TDC was adjudged to have operated unlawfully?

Response from the Leader

A verbal response will be given at the meeting.

Question for Cllr G Taylor -

6 - Can you confirm that the previously scrapped Wolborough DPD Masterplan is being revived?

Response from the Executive Member for Planning

A verbal response will be given at the meeting.

7 -Can you confirm that the representative bodies of the electorate (residents association and Parish Council) along with Ward Cllrs will be consulted in this process?

Response from the Executive Member for Planning

A verbal response will be given at the meeting.

8 -Can you publish the methodology of constructing the 'citizens assembly and how will it represent public opinion on NA3?

Response from the Executive Member for Planning

A verbal response will be given at the meeting.

9 -How will they ensure that their own Masterplan will be implemented?

Response from the Executive Member for Planning

A verbal response will be given at the meeting.

10 - How will TDC get round the plan that PCL Planning put forward?

Response from the Executive Member for Planning

A verbal response will be given at the meeting.