

CABINET – 13TH JULY 2023

QUESTIONS UNDER CABINET PROCEDURE 10.7

A. Councillor Bokor – Corporate Plan

“As the new Labour/Green alliance are aware, their election manifesto promises have to form the basis of a new Corporate Plan & associated Service Delivery Plans, which have to be deliverable, affordable & timely over the next 4 years. This is what Administrations are judged on. When can we expect the new Corporate Plan to be published with proposed actions and timescales?”

The Leader, or his nominee, will respond:

The Corporate Strategy will follow the usual 4 year process, therefore a new Strategy will be developed for publication in April 2024 – this will cover the period 2024-2028.

The Strategy will be presented to Cabinet on the 11th January 2024 and Full Council on the 26th February 2024.

B. Councillor Snartt – Local Plan

“The responses from the Conservative position statement agenda item 8.1 Council meeting 19th June 2023. I raise the following question, in my view, clarification is needed about the promises made in the Labour Manifesto.

- a. The Labour Manifesto, our promise to you states, ‘develop a new Local Plan covering the whole of Charnwood’. Would the Labour/Green administration give timescales when this new plan will be delivered within this Council term of 4 years?
- b. Would the Labour/Green administration explain if there is officer capacity at the Council to develop a proposed new Local Plan within this Council term of 4 years, promised in the Labour manifesto?
- c. By supporting the current new Local Plan how do the Labour/Green administration propose to refuse any development outside existing town or village boundaries during this Council term of 4 years, promised in the Labour manifesto?
- d. By supporting the current new Local Plan, the Labour/Green administration have agreed to housing located on greenfield sites of 69.6% and the allocation of dwellings 88% on greenfield. How do the Labour/Green administration propose to deliver the promise in the Labour manifesto, ‘setting a preference for brownfield sites to be delivered first’?
- e. With the high percentage of development on greenfield in the new current Local Plan, how do the Labour/Green administration propose to maintain a five-year housing land supply if the preference is for brownfield sites, which is only 12% for the allocation of dwellings in the new current Local Plan?”

The Leader, or his nominee, will respond:

As previously clarified, the Council does not have a Labour/Green administration and continuing to refer to it as such is erroneous.

Cllr Snartt asked substantially the same questions at the recent Council meeting on 19th June, and the following answers have already been provided to him:

Cllr Snartt's question: How the administration proposed to refuse any developments outside of the existing boundaries during the current council term?

Answer already provided: Decisions on planning applications are made within a legal framework which stipulates that decisions should be made in accordance with the development plan unless material considerations indicate otherwise. Every planning application has to be treated on its own merits. Making decisions on planning proposals involves making judgments, balancing the benefits of a proposal against adverse impacts, and, depending upon the planning balance, this can lead to refusal of planning permission.

Cllr Snartt's question: How the Labour Group would deliver their Manifesto pledge regrading a preference for brownfield sites without compromising the five-year housing land supply?

Answer already provided: The draft Local Plan allocates both brownfield and greenfield sites for housing development to demonstrate a five-year housing supply on adoption of the plan. It is not possible to meet the districts housing needs on brownfield sites alone and to therefore demonstrate a five-year housing land supply. The Local Plan policies are supportive of future applications to make efficient use of brownfield sites and buildings.

Cllr Snartt's question: If the council officers had capacity to deliver the Local Plan?

Answer already provided: The Local Plan will be delivered within the existing capacity of the Council.

Cllr Snartt is also referred to the Labour administration's response to the position statement request regarding the Local Plan which was provided at the Council meeting on 19th June (item 8 on the agenda).