

## CABINET – 12TH OCTOBER 2023

### QUESTIONS UNDER CABINET PROCEDURE 10.7

#### A. Councillor Bokor – Energy Efficiency, Council Owned Buildings

“Can the Leader please update us with where we are in making Council owned buildings, such as Southfields council offices, energy efficient? This was an ambition of the previous administration & as yet, still nothing has happened by the new administration. By that I mean solar panels for renewable energy, not just putting LED lights bulbs in!! If that idea is no longer viable, how much further is the Conservative’s second idea of selling Southfields as is & using the money to build new energy efficient offices on the adjacent council owned car park, in front of Loughborough Police station? I think Labour mentioned this in their recent election manifesto, as just a “vanity project” of the Conservatives. At some point the new administration needs to lead the Borough (by example) in making major energy savings in its own use of energy.”

*The Leader, or his nominee, will respond:*

*Officers instructed consultants to evaluate various options available to the Council regarding office accommodation. These include the potential to build new offices, remain in the current buildings and to purchase and refit new accommodation, including the installation of carbon reduction measures. The report was received by officers on 4 October and will be evaluated. On evaluating the options, officers will have questions that require further clarification in order to gain a more complete view of the options. This will enable more informed options to be prepared and officers will then be able to advise Cabinet on the best course of action to move forward on the shared ambition of net zero and the cost efficient use/operation of space in the coming few months.*

#### B. Councillor Bokor – Solar and Wind Power, Council Owned Land

“Will the Leader please confirm how far his Labour project to invest in new solar and wind power on council owned land has progressed? I ask as when the Conservatives tried to do this on land next to the new cemetery in Loughborough, they found that the receiving nation grid (Western Power) was full. So what other council owned land is available to achieve this Labour/Green ambition & where?”

*The Leader, or his nominee, will respond:*

*The Council’s large landholdings are few, especially those that would be beneficial in the implementation of large-scale renewable energy projects. The site at Little Moor Lane, a former landfill, was the most obvious choice but the Council has been informed by Western Power that the upstream grid capacity required to accept the large scale generation that the site would provide will not be in place until after 2032. At present, the Council owns no other large land parcels that would be practical in the delivery of the these types of projects. However, the Council has begun early conversations with another Leicestershire*

*District Council to explore if collaboration is possible should an appropriate project and site be found, subject to financial viability.*

C. Councillor Baines – Balancing Council’s Budget

“Given Labour’s desire not to use reserves but also to deliver a full suite of public services, how does Labour propose to balance the Council’s budget?”

*The Leader, or his nominee, will respond:*

*The development of the draft budget will broadly follow the timetable as used in previous years. Options for changes to both costs and revenues will be considered and reflected within the draft budget reports due to be presented at the December Cabinet meeting. If approved by Cabinet then proposals, as may be amended, will be circulated for wider consultation in line with historical custom and practice.*