

Public Questions – Cabinet 8 September 2020

Question 1 from Alistair Chisholm

In view of the ongoing crisis in the affordability of housing for younger working people in Dorset, does the cabinet have any plans to build or provide “Council Houses” to meet the growing need for the same ? If not, why not ?

Question 2 from Alistair Chisholm

In view of the proposed changes to the Planning System, will the Cabinet consider classifying the DOR 15 site, to the north of Dorchester’s water meadows, as a “Protected Zone” which cannot be developed. If not, why not ?

Question 3 from John Calvert

I was surprised to learn that both our Dorset Council and also Bournemouth Christchurch and Poole Council are presently using outdated government housing figures in their preparation of their Local Plans. We need more affordable housing in Dorset but we should be looking at need not at unreliable targets. It is also particularly important for our Dorset Council to encourage a reduction not only of their own target but also to encourage challenge in the Bournemouth et al figures as they might want Dorset Council to take the greater part of their commitment which could lead to lot more houses being required in our Dorset Council area.

In the light of this and research which I believe shows how inappropriate the government figures are, and the cross party support for planning on the basis of need, will the Cabinet support planning on the basis of need and thereby challenge the government's figures?"

Question 4 from John Calvert

Disabled access to Dorchester

It is still a disgrace that there is no proper disabled access to Dorchester West and to Dorchester South railway stations.

Regardless of responsibility for the necessary changes why is our Dorset Council not pressurising those responsible to move and produce plans to solve the problems?

Question 5 and 6 from Caz Dennett (South West Action on Pensions)

Dorset Council’s C&EE Strategy outlines how the Council will deliver a realistic and achievable approach to ensuring a carbon-neutral Dorset by 2040, with the aim to reduce the bulk of its carbon emissions before this date. It states to achieve this there will be a need for “imaginative and innovative solutions”.

The draft strategy makes no mention of accounting for the carbon emissions produced by Dorset Pension Fund's fossil fuel investments (currently 7.3% of the pension pot).

Q. To Cllr Ray Bryan, C&EEEAP

When will Dorset Council include the carbon emissions from fossil fuel investments made by Dorset Pension Fund in its calculated carbon footprint, to ensure an accurate and truthful measure?

Q. To Council Leader Cllr Spencer Flower

Can Dorset Council imagine divesting the Pension Fund from fossil fuels and adopt this as a solution that helps achieve a net zero-carbon Dorset?

Question 7 from Peter Bowyer

On 07.08.20 Councillor David Walsh announced at a meeting of the Executive Committee of the Dorset Association of Parish and Town Councils that there would be a "Dorset People's Local Plan". This term cannot be traced to any papers submitted to the Council.

Whilst it is welcomed that the Council acknowledges the importance of having a "Dorset People's Local Plan" it is unclear whether the Council has ever adopted this title or had any meaningful engagement with the residents of Dorset and their communities over the emerging Dorset Plan other than a consultation on the Statement of Community Involvement and two meetings with Parish and Town Councils in January and March 2020.

Can the Council please state how and when the residents of Dorset and their communities will be able to assist in the creation of a vision for the "Dorset People's Local Plan" other than responding to any consultation in late 2020/early2021?

Question 8 from Peter Bowyer

Consultations on the Planning White Paper and the New Planning System. When will the Council be able to make available its draft responses to these important consultations? The residents and communities of Dorset will be more informed by the early sharing by the Council of its draft responses.