

MSDC COUNCIL – 27 OCTOBER 2022

ITEM 8 - QUESTIONS BY COUNCILLORS IN ACCORDANCE WITH COUNCIL PROCEDURE RULES

Question 1 - Councillor Mansel to Councillor Flatman, Cabinet Member for Communities, Health and Wellbeing

Is the Council offering help and support to village halls, parish councils and other community groups to facilitate social gathering in heated communal spaces during this period of soaring energy prices and as winter approaches?

Question 2 – Councillor Field to Councillor Gould, Cabinet Member for Assets and Investments

I am pleased to see that Cifco has had a successful year and at the time the report was produced had recovered the property value that existed at time of the various purchases. However, that was some time ago and there has been considerable financial turbulence nationally and internationally since the accounts were drawn up.

Could the Cabinet Member give a view of the likely impact of dramatically rising interest rates on the District Councils programme to finance the Cifco investment and of the likely recession on the core Cifco business. I would ask that this be in sufficient detail for members and the public to understand the risks involved. It would appear that Cifco client companies will be in some problem and property values may fall substantially?

Question 3 – Councillor Mellen to Councillor Hadingham, Cabinet Member for Housing.

Many of the refugees from Ukraine who came to Suffolk under the Homes for Ukraine scheme are coming to the end of their first six months as guests here and are needing to find new accommodation. Where do these vulnerable people stand in terms of qualifying for social housing?

Question 4 – Councillor Mellen to Councillor Whitehead, Cabinet Member for Finance

With businesses moving into the Freeport / Investment zone not paying business rates, there will be a loss of income into the council coffers. Is the portfolio holder confident that central government will make up this shortfall?

Question 5 – Councillor Eburne to Councillor Whitehead, Cabinet Member for Finance

For the year 2021/22 an additional £4 million was available, on top of the normal budget, to be spent on separate projects. Another £1.1 million was added to this for 2022/23. Of this £5.1 million total extra funding, how much has actually been spent to date?

Question 6 Councillor Stringer to Councillor Burn, Cabinet Member for Planning

Does the portfolio holder for planning agree that Mid Suffolk should develop its own local policy guidance for determining solar farm applications?