

COUNTY COUNCIL – 19 MARCH 2019

WRITTEN QUESTION UNDER COUNCIL PROCEDURE RULE 9.2

1. Question from Councillor Lucy Nethsingha

I few months ago I asked the Chair of the Audit and Accounts Committee to look into the decision by the Commercial & Investment Committee and General Purposes Committee to award a farm tenancy to Councillor Roger Hickford under slightly unusual circumstances. Could the Chair of Audit and Accounts update me on what progress has been made in investigating this matter?

Response from Councillor Mike Shellens, Chairman of Audit and Accounts Committee

The Terms of Reference for this work have been approved by the Chair and Vice Chair of Audit and work has commenced. It is planned that the report will be presented to the Audit Committee at its meeting in July.

The approved investment arising within the issue under consideration has been put on hold pending this work.

The work is a priority of the IA team, recognising the issues involved.

Given the nature of the work it is not possible to provide updates on the work until all relevant information has been considered as findings may change.

The above timeline is conditional on the volume of documentation and information that will be submitted by key stakeholders.

It is estimated that a draft report may be prepared by end April / early May. However, it is best practice that key individuals be given further opportunity at that stage to comment and potentially submit additional information / evidence before the final report is produced.

Updates will be provided to me and the Vice Chair of the Audit Committee regarding adherence to timelines. It is intended to submit the final report for consideration in public by the Audit Committee.

2. Question from Councillor Lorna Dupre

On 16 October 2018, this council resolved to support this year's Clean Air Day on Thursday 20 June 2019. What action is the council taking to put this resolution into practical effect?

Response from Councillor Peter Hudson, Chairman of Health Committee

A communication strategy and action plan is being developed for national Clean Air Day on the 20th June 2019. The approach is to build on the national campaign by

sharing key messages, tool-kits and practical actions that local residents, business, schools can take to improve air quality, reduce congestion and improve health. A key focus will be on promoting active travel, which provides the co-benefit of reducing vehicle related air pollution and improving the health of residents through increased physical activity. The day will provide an opportunity to champion and promote current council services which support active travel such as Road Safety Team who work with schools to promote safe active travel to and from school. Further work will then be done to engage wider partners to promote the key messages locally.