

EAST CAMBRIDGESHIRE DISTRICT COUNCIL

FULL COUNCIL – 17 OCTOBER 2024

AGENDA ITEM 8

TO ANSWER QUESTIONS FROM MEMBERS

1. Question from Cllr Lucius Vellacott to the Leader of the Council Cllr Anna Bailey

'The youth unemployment rate is rising, from 13.0% in 2023 to 14.2% this year. The youth economic inactivity rate is also rising, now at 41.2%, 26% of whom are not in full-time education, which is the highest since records began. In East Cambridgeshire, the overall unemployment rate is 3.5% with an 18.2% economic inactivity rate.

I consider that the Council has a duty to help young people into work if they are unemployed or economically inactive, and not in full-time education, caring or otherwise unable to work. Young people who are able to work learn important life skills such as financial management, perseverance, people skills and more. It also provides a sense of purpose and motivation which is essential when transitioning into adult life. But young people are struggling. They have told us, via our Youth Engagement Strategy, about difficulties arising from the pandemic, one of the effects of which is that it is more difficult to get a job or to obtain work-related skills.

What is the Council doing to engage with relevant partners, and what action is it taking itself, to promote local apprenticeships, employment, work experience and skills training for young people across the District?

2. Question from Cllr John Trapp to Cllr Bill Hunt

What legal advice did you seek, and what legal advice did you receive, to inform your decision whether to chair the meeting of the Planning Committee on 13 August 2024 that determined the Soham Gateway and Soham Medical Centre planning applications?"

3. Question from Cllr Caroline Shepherd to Cllr Alan Sharp:

What legal advice did you seek, and what legal advice did you receive, to inform your decision whether to participate in the meeting of the Planning Committee on 13 August which determined the Soham Gateway and Soham Medical Centre planning applications?

4. Question from Cllr Charlotte Cane MP to Cllr Alan Sharp:

At the meeting of the Finance & Assets Committee on 26 September 2024, it was acknowledged that some of the information that was in the exempt papers relating to the proposed crematorium at Mepal could and should have been placed in the public domain. Will the Chair of the Finance & Assets Committee, in conjunction with the Liberal Democrat lead member on that committee, now work to identify and publish that information?

5. Question from Cllr Christine Colbert to Cllr Lorna Dupre

"What legal advice did you seek, and what legal advice did you receive, to inform your decision whether to participate in the meeting of the Planning Committee on 13 August which determined the Soham Gateway and Soham Medical Centre planning applications"