

PUBLIC QUESTIONS & FURTHER UPDATE

CHIEF EXECUTIVE'S OFFICE
CHIEF EXECUTIVE
Fiona Marshall

27 October 2016

Dear Councillor

COUNCIL - THURSDAY 27 OCTOBER 2016

In accordance with the Council's public speaking protocol the attached report details questions received in relation to the following item of business:

6. **Public Questions** (Pages 3 - 4)

Please also find enclosed a further update regarding:

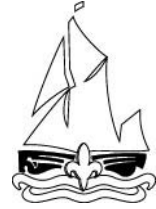
9. **Recommendations of Committees for Decision by the Council** (Pages 5 - 6)

Yours faithfully

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'F. R. Marshall', enclosed within a large, hand-drawn oval.

Chief Executive

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RESPONSE FROM THE LEADER TO QUESTIONS FROM THE PUBLIC

to
COUNCIL
27 OCTOBER 2016

PUBLIC QUESTIONS

1. QUESTIONS OF WHICH NOTICE HAS BEEN GIVEN

- 1.1 In accordance with the Council's public speaking protocol the following question was received from Councillor Wendy Stamp, on Friday 21 October 2016.

2. QUESTION

"I wish to ask a question to full Council on Thursday 27th October 2016, following the Chairman of Maldon District Council comment regarding Town Councillors being "expendable"! at the last Full council meeting.

- 1 Does the leader of the Council share the Chairman's view as expressed at the last full council meeting on the 8th September that "Town Councillors are expendable" And do you know to what extent this view is shared by your fellow Councillors?

I think many Town and Parish Councillors would like to know how much or how little their efforts are valued and by whom. I also wish to remind everyone sitting in this chamber that being a Town and Parish Councillor is on an unpaid and on a voluntary basis. Volunteers contribute, a massive amount of unpaid work, time, energy and effort in many areas, enhancing the Districts unique high class rural countryside for residents and visitors.

I raised this question at our own town Council meeting but Mr Elliot wasn't in attendance and sadly he isn't here to answer again.

Given the dire warnings re dangers of fire and physical dangers, risks to Councillor's are not a suitable subject or excuse for poor taste jokes IF this is disguised as one.

- 2 Why wasn't The Chairman's comment recorded in the minute 492 when Cllr Beale's comment of "Council should be more careful about what is put in a report" was. Both comments are in the public interest and should be open & transparently recorded as such.

3. RESPONSE

From the Leader of the Council:

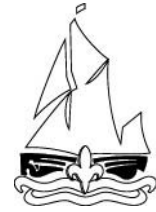
Question 1:

A verbal response will be given by the Leader of the Council at the meeting.

Question 2:

Minutes are essentially an official record of decisions, and where appropriate how those decisions are arrived at. The Council's Minutes are not verbatim and there is no basis for any associated content to be judged according to public interest. Individual Members' comments are not normally recorded unless they are associated with a particular formality or inform a decision.

**CIRCULATED AT
THE MEETING**



REPORT of CHIEF EXECUTIVE

**to
COUNCIL
27 OCTOBER 2016**

FURTHER UPDATE

AGENDA ITEM NO. 9 RECOMMENDATIONS OF COMMITTEES FOR DECISION BY THE COUNCIL

3. COMMUNITY SERVICES COMMITTEE – 30 AUGUST 2016

It has been noted that the following recommendation was omitted in error from the original report circulated. Please note that this recommendation links to Planning and Licensing Committee Minute 526.

- 3.3 [Web link to agenda, reports and Minutes for the above meeting.](https://democracy.maldon.gov.uk/ieListDocuments.aspx?CId=132&MId=1094&Ver=4)
[https://democracy.maldon.gov.uk/ieListDocuments.aspx?CId=132&MId=1094&Ver=4\)](https://democracy.maldon.gov.uk/ieListDocuments.aspx?CId=132&MId=1094&Ver=4)

3.4 MINUTE 427 – MALDON COMMUNITY SERVICES AND COMMUNITY HOSPITAL PROJECT

3.3.1 Minute Extract

The Committee considered the report of the Chief Executive on progress of the above project.

The report set out at Appendix 1 a letter received from the Mid Essex Clinical Commissioning Group (CCG) in response to concerns raised by the Community Hospital Working Group (CHWG) regarding progress and re-stating its commitment to the project. The CCG had now appointed an experienced Project Manager who had met with Officers recently and was due to meet with the CHWG shortly. It also set out details of work undertaken by consultants commissioned by the CCG, current repair work being undertaken at St Peter's Hospital, the Essex Success Regime, the arrangements being made for Health Organisation representatives to return to the next meeting of the Overview and Scrutiny Committee and the impending first meeting of the Project Board.

In response to concern expressed within the meeting at what was seen as a misleading report in the local newspaper last week, Officers advised that no such decision had been taken and that the options as laid out were still available. Other concerns expressed were generally that little progress had been made, the present situation with options was not new in terms of an estates review and business plan, and that any scheme proposal must be kept simple and uncomplicated by other issues or potential provision.

In the continuing discussion, Members concluded that given that the CCG had previously identified what it required, it was time for the Council to take more of an initiative in the progress of this project in the form of a new facility. It was generally agreed that the existing facility was not fit for purpose.

3.3.2 Committee Recommendation

That the Council is requested to consider the preparation of a business case for the provision by the Council of a new community hospital to serve the local community of the Maldon District.

FURTHER UPDATE