



RESPONSE FROM THE LEADER TO QUESTIONS FROM THE PUBLIC

**to
COUNCIL
20 DECEMBER 2018**

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 a member of the public.

2. QUESTIONS

The following question was received from Mr Christopher Swain of 4 Mermaid Way, Maldon on Tuesday 18 December 2018.

“When the Regional Spatial Strategy was set out as part of the subsequently abandoned Eastern Region Development Plan, little housing was allocated to the district because of its poor accessibility, rural nature and low-lying situation. These factors remain relevant, but were inexplicably ignored by the Planning Inspectors.

In view of the seemingly unresolvable problem of securing an acceptable flood alleviation scheme and in the light of the recent report of the International Committee on Climate Change on rising sea levels, will the Council grasp the nettle and tell the Secretary of State that the LDP needs to be revised, with a view to reducing the requirement for housing in the district and deleting the North Heybridge Garden Suburb from the Plan.”

3. RESPONSE

From the Leader of the Council:

The 2014 Strategic Housing Land Availability Assessment (SHLAA) sets out the housing requirements in the District, while the Sustainability Appraisal assessed the suitability of the strategic sites to meet the need assessed in the SHLAA. The North Heybridge Garden Suburb was assessed as suitable and was therefore included in the Local Plan. The Council needs to play its part in providing needed housing in the District and so there is no proposal to remove that site from the Local Plan.