



## **RESPONSE FROM THE LEADER OF THE COUNCIL**

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**to  
COUNCIL  
4 NOVEMBER 2021**

### **PUBLIC QUESTIONS**

#### **1. QUESTIONS OF WHICH NOTICE HAS BEEN GIVEN**

- 1.1 In accordance with the Council's public speaking protocol the following questions were received from members of the public.

#### **2. QUESTIONS**

- 2.1 The following questions were received from Mr Tom Kelly on Tuesday 26 October 2021.

##### **2.2 Question One:**

- 2.2.1 Can it be made a Mandatory Duty for all members to visit MDC Cemeteries ANNUALLY, thus observing the need for an annual budgeted amount by way of investment to improve the condition of long neglected Resting Places, but separated from the standard budget re payroll etc etc?

##### **2.3 Question Two:**

- 2.3.1 What steps have been taken to take NHS Bureaucracy to task and get them to understand their FAILURE to INVEST in Modern Health Infrastructure, not putting it down to "tomorrow, tomorrow", especially with the increasing population from housing development and the pressures thus laid on existing facilities??

#### **3. RESPONSE FROM THE LEADER OF THE COUNCIL**

##### **3.1 Question One response:**

- 3.1.1 The Council is not legally able to make visits to the cemeteries a mandatory requirement for Councillors. It is down to individual Councillors to decide how best to use their time to service their constituents.
- 3.1.2 The cemeteries budget is separately identifiable. This year it includes six members of staff and total non-staffing expenditure of £47k, of which £33k relates to maintenance and repairs. Last year the Council allocated £10k for foundation work at Maldon Cemetery Chapel and purchased equipment for £11k, in addition to regular maintenance.

##### **3.2 Question Two response:**

- 3.2.1 The Council has a much stronger partner relationship with NHS organisations sub-regionally and locally since the Covid-19 pandemic started, as can be demonstrated

by many organisation's working closer together to support each other and provide facilities to support the local response to the pandemic. We want to build on this legacy proactively and seek a closer working relationship with our NHS partners for the health benefits of all Maldon District residents going forward.

- 3.2.2 The Council already worked with the NHS Clinical Commissioning Group (CCG) when preparing its current Local Development Plan to try to ensure it could factor in how their services and facilities needed to change as a result of growth in the District. This much needed investment was recognised as being necessary by the Planning Inspector that found the Local Development Plan to be legal and sound. Delivering sustainable growth and new infrastructure through development and working with communities and partners to improve the physical and mental health and well-being of our residents' feature in three of the new monitored outcomes of the Council's Corporate Plan approved earlier this year; it is therefore already enshrined in council policy that this must continue to support new projects including the Local Development Plan Review that was started in Feb 2021.
- 3.2.3 Operationally, we are also now meeting with the NHS across a number of service delivery and strategy areas to ensure our residents' concerns are fully understood by the NHS teams delivering services on the ground. As part of our duties to spend S106 contributions that have been paid by developers in the District, this includes more specific engagement with the NHS planning teams to ensure the spending of those contributions on health projects in the District happens as quickly as possible.