



RESPONSE FROM THE LEADER OF THE COUNCIL

to
COUNCIL
14 SEPTEMBER 2023

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. QUESTION

The following question was received from Mr Tom Kelly on 30 August 2023:

'Why has MDC failed to improve the overall vista for visitors at Maldon Cemetery and kept many parts looking decrepit with insufficient regular staff or set out an overall plan of improvement, yet can spend over £218,000 a year on Councillors' allowances?'

3. RESPONSE FROM THE LEADER

The Council recognises the importance of ensuring that we provide peaceful, well maintained cemeteries where our residents can mourn their loved ones, and our staff strive to deliver a good level of service across all of our three cemeteries.

We are currently exploring opportunities to ensure that we are able to provide greater resilience to the maintenance of our cemeteries. This includes the way in which the service is delivered as well as opportunities to improve the layout of some areas to enable us to manage the maintenance to maximum effectiveness.

We also looking at how we can improve the way in which we work with and support our volunteers, who add value to the maintenance of our Cemeteries

A report will be brought forward to the Strategy and Resources Committee on 9 November 2023 to consider options for delivering greater resilience and maintaining a more consistent standard of grounds maintenance across our cemeteries.

Strategically, it should be noted that Maldon, like all other Councils faces budget pressures, and there is an ongoing piece of work to look at how we deliver quality services across the whole Council, but in the limit of the funding available to us. Members' allowances will be included in those wider considerations. I also note that the recent Remuneration Panel report did find the Maldon allowances to be broadly in line with others.