CIRCULATED PRIOR TO THE MEETING

RESPONSE FROM THE LEADER OF THE COUNCIL

to
COUNCIL
11 NOVEMBER 2026

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. QUESTION ONE

Question:
Received from Jayne Pestell on 4 November 2026:

"Why was one councillor allowed to put through a very damaging development in Latchingdon for 140 houses Ref 26/00138. Surely this should be put to council again. I was at the meeting and was completely shocked, that only 10 councillors were allowed to vote. Thank you."

Response from the Leader of the Council:
Thank you for your question. The decision on planning application 26/00138/OUTM was made by the District Planning Committee on 15 October 2026. The application had been deferred from an earlier meeting, and the Committee was continuing its consideration of that application. To ensure that the decision was legally sound and taken in accordance with the Council's Procedure Rules, only Members who had attended the previous meeting when the application was considered were eligible to vote. As other Members were not in attendance, eight Members present were eligible to vote.

Of those eight Members, seven abstained and one voted in favour of the application. The decision was therefore made by the Committee, rather than by an individual councillor acting alone. Abstentions do not count as votes for or against a proposal and do not invalidate a decision where the required quorum is met. Although this voting outcome was unusual, the proposal was carried and the decision was lawful.

3. QUESTION TWO

Question:
Received from Emma Derham on 9 November 2026.

"When the council decides where to allocate new housing in the Local Plan 2040, how will it check whether Latchingdon's sewage works can cope with the homes already in the pipeline as well as any further development? If more capacity is needed and there's no funded upgrade, would the council still allocate more sites?"

Response from the Leader of the Council:
Thank you for your question. Wastewater capacity is an important consideration in deciding where new development should be located. The Local Plan is at an early scoping stage, rather than the point of deciding individual site allocations.

In developing the Plan, the Council will consider evidence about infrastructure capacity and the improvements required to support growth.

For Latchingdon, that assessment should consider the cumulative demand from existing homes, development already permitted but not yet completed, and any further growth proposed through the Plan—not simply assess each new site in isolation. It will be informed by engagement with Anglian Water, Essex and Suffolk Water and the Environment Agency, addressing both the capacity of the sewer network and sewage treatment works, and the environmental limits on treated discharges. Where improvements are necessary, the evidence should identify what is needed, who would deliver it, the likely cost and funding arrangements, and the timescale for completion.

The absence of a funded upgrade today would not, by itself, automatically rule out an allocation later in the Plan period. However, an allocation should not depend on an unsupported assumption that additional capacity will become available. There would need to be a credible, evidence-based route to delivering the necessary infrastructure in time, with the location, scale and phasing of development reflecting any constraints. Where appropriate, site policies can require development to be phased and prevent occupation until the necessary wastewater infrastructure is in place.