

## **FULL COUNCIL – 9 OCTOBER 2023 – QUESTIONS UNDER STANDING ORDER 22**

### **First Questions**

#### **Question 1**

##### **From Cllr Harrison to the Portfolio Holder for Finance and Corporate, Cllr Heron**

Why doesn't the District Council employ a full-time anti-fraud officer? The post under question being the Corporate Fraud and Compliance Officer - currently a part time post.

#### **Question 2**

##### **From Cllr Brand to the Portfolio Holder for Planning and Economy, Cllr Tipp**

With Prezzo leaving Lyndhurst and another Lyndhurst restaurant gone bust and closed last week, can the Portfolio Holder tell us how many businesses have failed in the New Forest in 2022/23?

#### **Question 3**

##### **From Cllr M Wade to the Leader of the Council, Cllr Cleary**

Whilst most members of the Armed Forces community are healthy, happy and gainfully employed, the unique nature of military life brings with it many challenges that need to be recognised and better understood and for some, particularly the injured and bereaved, for whom extra support needs to be provided.

It was to support veterans and military families the Military Covenant was enshrined in law in the 2011 Armed Forces Act and ensures that members of the Armed Forces community are not disadvantaged as a result of their service when accessing Government and commercial services.

Although some actions do take place in the New Forest District to support military families currently the New Forest District council does not meet the full breadth of requirements outlined in the Military Covenant and its guidance for local authorities.

Therefore, can you confirm that this council will put in place such actions as are necessary to meet the full criteria under the act.

#### **Question 4**

##### **From Cllr Clark to the Portfolio Holder for Finance and Corporate, Cllr Heron**

Is the Council content with its due diligence process before awarding large contracts to external companies?

#### **Question 5**

##### **From Cllr J Davies to the Portfolio Holder for Community, Safety and Wellbeing, Cllr Poole**

Why did Conservative Councillors, when agreeing the contract for the leisure service, give Freedom Leisure the power to evict local swimming clubs from the Leisure Centres after 12 months?

## **Question 6**

### **From Cllr A Wade to the Portfolio Holder for Community, Safety and Wellbeing, Cllr Poole**

This Council has a responsibility to undertake Equality Impact Assessments on all its decisions. Why was this not considered when Freedom Leisure, our Partners, made the unpopular and upsetting decision to tell local Swimming Clubs they could no longer use their pools and stop access for many children with special and specific needs to learn this essential life skill in a appropriate environment? And why didn't you as the Portfolio Holder challenge this decision when you were made aware of it and engage with Freedom if access to Swimming for all ages and abilities really matters?

## **Question 7**

### **From Cllr Rackham to the Portfolio Holder for Community, Safety and Wellbeing, Cllr Poole**

The contract for Freedom Leisure was described by the then chair of the task and finish group as 'robust ...in view of detail' and voted for by every Conservative member then present, some of whom are still here. What can be done to make sure the awful behaviour towards our swimming and other community clubs cannot continue or be replicated in the future?

## **Second Questions**

## **Question 8**

### **From Cllr Rackham to the Portfolio Holder for Planning and Economy, Cllr Tipp**

Can the portfolio holder please outline how NFDC responded to the recent suggested Permitted Development legislation which would allow shops, offices and outbuildings to be turned into housing with no structured plan or infrastructure?