

## **Cabinet**

**7 January 2016**

### **Written Questions from Councillors (Agenda Item No 6)**

**The following written questions have been submitted by Councillor Ient that are to be put to Councillor Smith, Leader of the Council:**

#### **Question 1:**

“The Cabinet agenda under item 9.4 provides details of a proposed Joint Venture Agreement to be signed between Santon and the LDC. The agreement includes setting up a Joint Venture Board, and a North Street Members’ Board (with membership to be agreed between the leaders of the political parties). Under item 6 of the Agreement it mentions the creation of a Business Plan. Under item 10.1 the joint obligations of the two parties, Santon & LDC, are listed and this includes a “Relocation Strategy” under item 10.1.3. No further information is provided as to how and when the Relocation Strategy will be developed. Nor does it say who will be responsible for developing the strategy or who will be consulted in the process. One can only assume that the Relocation Strategy is connected with moving the existing businesses around the site or off the site.

I understand that businesses in Phase 1 of the development have already been given notice to quit. Following my further consultations with Relocate East Sussex (I have not had an answer to my queries with LDC’s Regeneration Team) regarding a public transport company, who are currently housed on the site, that they are still no further forward in assisting the company and that very limited help is being offered. If this response to the situation is reflected amongst all of the tenants on the site I can see that the situation will rapidly become desperate for some companies. Now I see that there is to be a Relocation Strategy which may take months to draw up by which time the situation will get even worse.

Could the Leader of the Council please ensure that the Relocation Strategy is drawn up as a matter of urgency and that in the process LDC officers fully consult the businesses on the site during the course of January 2016 such that jobs and businesses are not lost to the town of Lewes?”

#### **Question 2:**

“In the latest copy of Members First the Council announce their further commitment to the provision of solar energy panels on council owned

property. With the signing of the joint venture agreement for the North Street development there is an opportunity to embed renewable energy services within the site for the future benefit of the world's climate and the people of Lewes.

Could the Leader of the Council please consider implementing a 'programme of renewable energy provision' in the properties which it is developing on the North Street site and will it use its best endeavours to encourage Santon to do the same? Such measures could be embodied within the joint-venture agreement."