

# Council

13 October 2016

## Questions from Members of the Public (Agenda Item No 6)

**Questions submitted by Mr Vivian Carrick, Secretary, Peacehaven Focus Group, the first of which is to be put to the Cabinet Member for Customers and Partners, Councillor Nicholson; and the remaining two are to be put to the Leader of the Council, Councillor Smith:**

**Question 1:** The Lewes District Infrastructure Plan dated May 2016 states on the Telscombe Cliffs Unit (Telscombe Cliffs to East Saltdean) that 'no investment will be made to provide sea defences along this stretch of the coastline'. However, we have been informed that Lewes District Council (LDC) in conjunction with Brighton & Hove City Council have commissioned a report from a coastal erosion consultant which includes this stretch of coastline and the report and recommendations is expected to be discussed at the LDC Cabinet meeting on 16th November this year.

Taking in to account the recent rock fall at Friar's Bay, Peacehaven and the close proximity of the unprotected cliffs to the A259 South Coast Road at the top of Telscombe Tye and opposite Bannings Vale, East Saltdean, what are LDC's immediate and future plans and assurances to local residents and businesses to seek grants to be able to protect the cliffs along this stretch of coastline from putting the A259 at risk , with the subsequent disastrous consequences for the economies of both Lewes District and Brighton and Hove?

**Question 2:** In the Lewes District Council (LDC) external auditors report on the New Homes Project, it stated that £600,000 of public money was spent before it was cancelled. Therefore, can LDC confirm a detailed breakdown of all the costs in the £600,000 complete with chronological dates of commitments and clarify if studies were still being commissioned by LDC after the Full Council Meeting on 9-12-2016, when the New Homes Project was put on hold, for example the 'Economic Impact Report'? Please can LDC also confirm that all this information that i have requested shall be 'for transparency purposes' made available to the general public?

**Question 3:** The New Homes Working Group report to Cabinet Schedule 2 para 2.3 makes it clear that the issuing of Pink Papers early on in the project constrained members and had a severe impact upon their sharing information including details about the selection of sites. Can definite undertakings be made by LDC that in future a more open approach will be made to ensure that site selection for any potential developments of LDC properties is made public immediately?