

URGENT BUSINESS AND SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION

Council

16 July 2018

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Council

Monday 16 July 2018

Agenda Item 8 (a), Written Questions

Question From: Councillor Alaric Rose

Question To: Leader of the Council, Councillor Barry Wood

Topic: Housing Base and Council Tax

Question

In June 2017, Cllr Wood wrote an article for Conservative Home "Council Tax – Expand The Base, not the rate". In this article, published 7 days before the Executive voted through the plan to build 4400 homes around Begbroke, Gosford, Kidlington, and Yarnton, he states "in essence, this strategy is based on being a pro-growth authority relying on expanding the Council Tax base rather than the level. In the last year we have delivered 800 homes".

Would the leader tell us whether the opportunity to have a larger housing base in Cherwell in order to maintain the current Council Tax precept has been a deciding factor in the decision to help Meet Oxford's Unmet Housing Need?

Agenda Item 8 (a), Written Questions

Question From: Councillor Alaric Rose

Question To: Leader of the Council, Councillor Barry Wood

Topic: Decriminalised Parking in Cherwell

Question

In the Annual Parish Meeting in Kidlington, Parish Cllr David Betts asked you whether you would look into the decriminalisation of parking in Cherwell, and you personally assured him you would do so. On 11 April, Kidlington PC subsequently wrote to you on the same topic, but have yet to hear back.

Kidlington members, and I am sure members elsewhere, are regularly contacted concerning inconvenient, illegal and dangerous parking violations that aren't being enforced due to the facts that Thames Valley Police are stretched to capacity, and that parking enforcement is one of their lowest priorities. I am aware of the PCSO allocated to enforce parking, but their time is District wide, and there appears to be no reduction in parking violations.

In light of this, would the Leader be willing to instruct officers to produce a Business Case (to include financial costs and income, delivery options and timescales) to be considered as part of next year's budget?