

Council – 19 December 2019

Item 20. General Questions

5. Question from Councillor S. Dunn

"The Local Development Scheme sets out a timetable for the production of the Local Plan which stretches out in to 2021. Could the Leader please set out what opportunities will be available to members to formally discuss, debate and vote on both specific aspects of the Local Plan and the final completed version?"

6. Question from Councillor J.H.J. Doerfel

"On 21 November I asked Council staff to provide me with information that is covered by the Freedom of Information Act namely the full contract with and instructions to the consultants Arup that informed their Green Belt assessment which plays a central part in the current Local Plan Consultation. Both as a Councillor (who happens to be a member of the Audit and Overview and Scrutiny Committee) and as a member of the public I am entitled by law to receive this information. I asked to be provided with this information **without delay**, yet I have still not been provided with a copy this information (either by email or by post) as I am entitled to under the Act. This is extremely concerning both in terms of appropriate treatment of Councillors' requests for information and in terms of the compliance with the rule of law at this Council, considering furthermore that the Local Plan consultation is due to close on 21st January 2019, that the information has already been withheld for 3 weeks [at the time of submission of this question] and that this information is central.

(1) When will I be provided with a copy of the full contract for Arup (and all the specific documents that make up this contract) which I expressly requested?

(2) What steps is the Council going to take in the future to ensure that Councillors' requests for information are complied with promptly and that the Freedom of Information Act is complied with in a spirit of openness and compliance from now on?"