

Questions under Procedure Rule 11.2 for Council

Q1. Question from Councillor Norman to the Leader of the Council

Can I ask the Leader of Council if he has viewed the Planning Committee meetings on YouTube in recent weeks, and if so, does he think it is operating efficiently and properly?

Response from the Leader of the Council

I have indeed watched Planning Committee several times in recent weeks and commend the work of both councillors and officers who navigate what can be a complex and emotive environment. There are always things which can be improved in any organisation, and I know that both the Chair of Planning and the relevant Cabinet member are focussed on achieving those improvements.

Q2. Question from Councillor Norman to the Cabinet Member for Regulatory, Housing and Health

Can she tell me how many pre planning application meetings there have been in the last 12 months and set out the procedure that officers follow, including the nature of the advice that are then given, to applicants?

Response from the Cabinet Member for Regulatory, Housing and Health

In the period 1.4.20-31.3.21 LDC received 188 pre apps (compared to 163 in the previous 12 months and 170 in the 12 months before that).

Pre-application advice is a discretionary service and developers do not have to seek such advice if they do not wish to.

In terms of the pre-application protocol, this is set out in information on our website, which can be viewed by the following link: <https://www.lichfielddc.gov.uk/pre-application-guidance-1/pre-application-protocol/1>

In terms of Member involvement in pre-app this tends to only happen on larger/major schemes and we have a protocol for Member involvement as part of a Development Team approach, again as set out on the website: <https://www.lichfielddc.gov.uk/pre-application-guidance-1/pre-application-protocol-major-developments?documentId=387&categoryId=20072>

<https://www.lichfielddc.gov.uk/pre-application-guidance-1/pre-application-protocol-major-developments/4?documentId=387&categoryId=20072>

Pre-application advice is the informal opinion of an officer and made without prejudice. The responses are not in the public domain, as they are not formal determinations under the Town & Country Planning Act. We do not release copies of the responses or advice to others, as the advice is given specifically and of course has been paid for by the person or company that approaches us.