

## **Questions under Procedure Rule 11.2 for Council**

### **Q1. Question from Councillor Norman to the Cabinet Member for Housing, Ecology and Climate Change**

“Which planning regulation applies to the advertising signs around the Friarsgate site, adjacent to the Council House (and which cost £23,000) means they do not require planning permission?”

### **Response from the Cabinet Member for Housing, Ecology and Climate Change**

“In the absence of Cllr Eadie to answer, I have checked with officers on the cost of the hoardings. I do not know why Cllr Norman has stated they cost over £23,000. The cost was £17,733.

I am advised by officers the relevant planning regulations which address hoardings on the council’s own land are the Town & Country Planning (Control of Advertisements) (England) Regulations 2007 Schedule 3 if the hoardings are not deemed to be advertising. That is a matter of interpretation and when Cllr Norman asked the question of our Planning Officers back in June/July of this year he was advised that the hoardings did equate to advertising and require planning permission.

For whatever reason, back in 2019, when the hoardings were put up, planning permission was not sought. That was a matter for the then officers dealing with the matter.”

### **Q2. Question from Councillor D Ennis to the Cabinet Member for Community Engagement**

“The District Council’s Community safety delivery plan 2022-2025 states, and I quote:

*‘The partnership has considered local crime data and has received contributions from partner agencies. For 2022/23 it has identified that at the heart of its response there needs to be coordination between services to respond to vulnerable people.’*

However, the recent police effectiveness, efficiency and legitimacy (PEEL) inspection report found that Staffordshire Police requires improvement at protecting vulnerable people stating: “Staffordshire Police requires improvement at protecting vulnerable people. And that the force requires a clear governance and performance reporting structure for vulnerability which is understood throughout the force.”

Why has the Cabinet Member for Community Engagement and our representative on the Staffordshire Police and Crime Panel not reported this to the Council?”

## **Response from the Cabinet Member for Community Engagement**

“The Peel Inspection report relates to the Staffordshire Police and operational matters. This is a matter for the Chief Constable to address.

With reference to the Police, Fire and Crime Panel for Staffordshire, Cllr Darren Ennis will be aware that in line with protocol, I distribute the meeting notes to all Members of Council and if any Member has a question, they can submit these either directly to the Panel or through myself as the agenda facilitates such questions to the Police, Fire and Crime Commissioner.

May I take this opportunity to remind Council of the specific role of the panel. The specific role of the panel is *'to scrutinise the Police, Fire and Crime Commissioner, to promote openness in the transaction of Police and Fire and Rescue business and also to support the Commissioner in the effective exercise of their functions'*.

Included in the work of the Panel is:

- scrutiny of decisions made by the Police, Fire and Crime Commissioner
- scrutiny of the Commissioners Precepts (one each for the Police Service and the Fire and Rescue Service)
- contributing to the development of the Police and Crime Plan and Fire Plan
- reviewing proposed appointment to key posts including the Chief Constable and Chief Fire Officer
- scrutinising at a Public meeting, the Commissioners Annual Report and Fire and Rescue Statement of Assurance
- consider complaints against the Police, Fire and Crime Commissioner (**NB**. Not complaints against the Staffordshire Police Force or the Staffordshire Fire and Rescue Service).

You can view information from the former Staffordshire Police and Crime Panel from the link here <http://moderngov.staffordshire.gov.uk/mgCommitteeDetails.aspx?ID=831>”