

UPDATE ON PREVIOUS ACTIONS

REF	Date Requested	Question	Timescale
COMPLETED ACTIONS			
1	08.11.2021	FREEDOM LEISURE -	COMPLETE
		An email was circulated on the 2 nd of December 2021 containing the link to the Report requested from Carol Pilon in relation to the costs associated with providing relief to Freedom Leisure. That link is available here: https://www.fenland.gov.uk/localgov/documents/s9034/Report.pdf	
2	08.11.2021	FREEDOM LEISURE – WHITTLESEY POOL	COMPLETE
		Councillor Wicks noted that there had been issues reported with the quality of Whittlesey swimming pool, especially at the shallow end. Freedom Leisure stated that “FDC officers have discussed this with the Freedom Contract Manager. Freedom has not received customer concerns re the same and the cracks are not impacting the pool, nor causing a safety issue. At present they have no plans to repair cracks at this time. It is worth mentioning that Freedom will be ensuring they have developed a fresh 10 year asset management plan next year that will then cover the majority of the rest of the contract term for Freedom. This will work in conjunction with the FDC asset management plan.”	

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3	08.11.2021	PLANNING – APPLICATION DATA Councillor Conner asked for a breakdown of the number of planning applications going to committee over the past three years along with the number of applications during the current year if possible.	COMPLETE
		Nick Harding, Head of Planning has provided the following information: 2018/19 = 62 2019/20 = 56 2020/21 = 75 2021/22 year to date = 55	
4	08.11.2021	PLANNING – HOUSING NEEDS ASSESSMENT Councillor Booth asked whether there was an expected completion date for the traveller and gypsy housing needs assessment.	COMPLETE
		Nick Harding, Head of Planning has provided the following information: We commissioned jointly with other authorities a needs assessment. However, due to covid and the community’s reluctance to allow visits to sites etc the assessment has not been completed on time. Joint discussions are ongoing with the partner authorities and the consultant on how best to complete the work necessary to produce a robust evidence base. As a consequence of the delays, the first draft of the local plan is unlikely to be published with the supporting evidence base and so it will be the subsequent 2nd draft that will benefit from the most up to date information available.	
5	08.11.2021	COMMUNITIES – EMPTY HOMES Councillor Booth asked whether the total number of empty houses could be provided.	COMPLETE
		An email was circulated on the 6 th of December 2021 containing a Report requested from Cllr Hoy in relation to the number of empty houses in Fenland.	
ONGOING ACTIONS			
1	08.11.21	SKILLS & EMPLOYMENT - APPRENTICESHIPS Clarification was provided in relation to a previous question in relation to apprenticeships and specifically that members	ONGOING

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		<p>wished to know what action the Combined Authority is taking to promote/encourage apprenticeship opportunities in the local area?</p> <p>Information From CPCA</p> <p>Councillor Seaton has committed to providing an update following his attendance the CPCA Board Meeting. This will be provided when available.</p> <p>Response from Sam Anthony regarding FDC's approach:</p> <p>Companies are encouraged to consider recruiting apprentices when FDC officers are discussing recruitment and skills with companies.</p> <p>Where companies identify barriers to employing apprentices these are investigated further. An example would be that the company considers that the scheme does not provide the apprentices with a real job. The response to this is that the apprentice is given the opportunity to gain skills both in work and college which can then be utilised by the employer or be added to the apprentice's CV.</p> <p>Companies are personally introduced to Growth Works – Skills who work actively with local employers and the apprenticeship provider network to identify and showcase the opportunities for apprenticeships. A representative from Growth Works then meets with the company to discuss their needs and identify relevant providers.</p> <p>The support provided by Growth Works and apprenticeship providers are promoted in the Fenland for Business Newsletter and Twitter.</p>	
2	06.12.2021	Hosing – Long term empty properties	
		<p>Cllr Wicks asked how many long-term empty houses (over 6 months) there were in the area?</p> <p>Sally Greetham committed to providing figures for long term delays. These will be circulated with the panel when provided.</p>	
3	06.12.2021	<p>Council Tax – Collection of Arrears</p> <p>Cllr Hay asked how the collection of arrears for Fenland compared in terms of percentages in relation to other ARP</p>	

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		members.	
		Adrian Mills informed the panel that they did not have the information to hand and would provide the exact figures after the meeting.	
WATCHING BRIEF ITEMS			
1.	08.06.2020	<p>Cllr Booth would like county council to state what rates they will charge preschools</p> <p>Response from Sector Development and Funding Manager, Early Years’ Service, Cambs County Council Cambridgeshire County Council wrote recently to a range of early years and childcare providers occupying buildings on school sites as part of its ongoing work to achieve consistent occupancy arrangements.</p> <p>The ongoing work looks at whether market rents are affordable for Early Years settings or not and then proceeds to adjust the rent downwardly if there is lack of affordability that would threaten the sustainability of the provision.</p> <p>This activity supports the Council’s responsibilities for:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Maintaining and developing the local economy for the benefit of all;• Obtaining best value in respect of all its financial dealings, including those in its role of being a landlord; and,• Maintaining its assets in order to protect their value over time. <p>This process has been extended to address the impact of the Coronavirus on early years provision, looking at rent deferment and rent holiday options. Both options were presented in the letter.</p> <p>These measures are designed to make occupancy easier for early years and childcare providers, with more consistent, realistic and affordable property charges. Providers will be asked for certain information relating to their business in order to access the remedial measures on offer. This again is in the interests of consistency and fairness. There is no intention to increase rents in any of this activity.</p>	
2.	8.11.2021	<p>Cllr Booth requested a watching brief on Peterborough City Councils planning review and how this may affect Fenland</p>	