

WRITTEN QUESTIONS – FULL COUNCIL – 27 FEBRUARY 2019

1. MINUTE 120 – SCRUTINY COMMITTEE 14 JANUARY 2019

Questions submitted by Councillor Mrs N Woollatt and the responses of the Chief Executive and Deputy Chief Executive (S151)

I specifically asked during that meeting for a response to the issue of inaccurate information being published in the Decision Recording form (i.e. stating that the project had the benefit of planning permission when it had no planning permission at that time, outline or otherwise). I was told Members would receive a response and that was minuted. I have not been given any response to my query. The information still remains published as fact and is included as one of the reasons for the decision.

1. Please will Council explain why the notice stated that the project had the benefit of planning permission when it did not?
2. Why was I told by the Chief Executive in an email of 21.12.18 , in response to my raising this issue of no planning permission, that the site had the benefit of outline planning permission when it did not?
3. Were the decision makers informed that the site had planning permission when they were making their decision?

RESPONSES

1. *The Council received a new planning application 19/00244/MOUT on 27 November 2018 for a NHS Hub surgery building. This is now likely to be considered by the Planning Committee at a meeting on 3 April 2019; prior to this the area was covered by an application 06/02670/MOUT which covered the overall site for mixed use on the land to the south of Exeter Road. However, this earlier application lapsed on the 15 October 2013. Therefore at the point of completing the urgent business decision the site in question did not have the benefit of a live planning permission. I apologise for this error, however it would remain that the Council would not enter into any loan arrangement until after planning permission for this development was granted.*
2. *While the site had previously secured outline planning consent, this has now lapsed. This was not highlighted to the Chief Executive until after he had responded to Cllr Mrs Woollatt on 21.12.18.*
3. *As previously mentioned in my response to question 1, the urgent decision specified that the site had planning permission, so this is what the decision makers used when making their “in principle” decision, subject to officers finalising all the relevant due diligence that would be necessary.*