

Council – 21 July 2021

Public Questions

~~1. From Ms S Batchelor to Councillor Godfrey, Cabinet Member for Housing, Transport and Special Projects~~

~~There is not enough affordable and social housing available now. As future generations of local workers won't be able to afford to buy or even rent property in the district. What assurance can the councillor give that those individuals won't be forced to seek jobs and affordable homes many miles away from their home town, isolated from their families and friends?~~

As the questioner was not present at the meeting, the above question fell (as per part 4 of the Constitution, paragraph 8.7).

2. **From Mrs M Lawes to Councillor Godfrey, Cabinet Member for Housing, Transport and Special Projects**

Due to the lack of house building over last 30/40 years by FHDC, the fact that London Councils, KCC renting properties through Clear Springs, Police, Probation service and other local authorities have had residents housed in East Folkestone and Harbour Ward, that young people with mental health are being housed in sheltered accommodation for 55's and over, this is disproportionate in such a small area of the district and has left no affordable accommodation for locals to rent. Does this council agree that their policy to deliver 300 homes over 10 years is woefully inadequate and should be adjusted to reflect local need?

ANSWER:

Thank you Mrs Lawes.

The council has committed to directly deliver up to 1,300 between now and 2035/36 additional affordable council homes, not the 300 you refer to. We are committed directly to deliver those homes as part of our policy to delivery affordable council homes. As part of our affordable housing policies, we are also working to secure affordable homes in developments across the district and deliver more homes through our housing association partners. Helping local people to remain in the district is a priority for the Council and we are doing all that we can to maximise the opportunities for people do this. The Council's flagship new garden town development at Otterpool Park will provide significant employment and housing options for future generations.

SUPPLEMENTARY QUESTION:

What are you doing to rectify local need, instead of people being forced out of the district?

ANSWER:

I think I've replied adequately, we are doing all we can to provide additional homes for all residents of the district, as fast as we can. Sometimes we cannot do this quick enough, and I accept that, but we will continue to try and develop the housing programme.