

The Cabinet Member (Strategic Planning, Housing and Economic Growth), Councillor Cliff Hughes has received a written question from Councillor Colin Clark as follows:

“ On 22nd March 2018 a planning application was submitted to the Council for the erection of 2 No. agricultural stores (steel shipping containers) to accommodate the storage of equipment and to house sheep/feed and the formation of a silo for grass. The site was wholly in the Green Belt.

Initially it was intended that the application be dealt with under the delegated authority to Planning Officers procedures and to grant planning permission in this case. However, the Ward Councillors requested that the application be referred to the Planning Committee for consideration because, in their opinion, it did not satisfy the requirements of the Green Belt Policy G1.

The Committee report contained an Officer recommendation that approval be granted subject to certain conditions but the Committee decided to defer the matter and requested that further information be provided.

Subsequently, the application was referred again to the Planning Committee on 18th July 2018, but, this time, the Officer recommendation was to refuse the application, as the additional information obtained, which should have been available in the first instance, demonstrated that the application did not meet the requirements of the Green Belt Policy G1. Accordingly the Committee refused the application.

Does the Cabinet Member for Strategic Planning, Housing and Economic Development agree with me:-

1. that the procedures on delegated authority to Officers needs to be reviewed in relation to planning applications?
2. That all future planning applications for development within the Green Belt should be referred to the Planning Committee in order to ensure that the Green Belt Policy G1 is safeguarded at all times.”

The Cabinet Member (Finance), Councillor Susan Snape has received a written question from Councillor Colin Clark as follows:

“ On 30th March 2016 a report was presented to the Council by the then Cabinet Member for Finance and Resources, Councillor Bennett, with a recommendation to approve the acquisition of industrial units at the Momentum Business Centre, in Bamber Bridge. In the report it stated that the anticipated rental income to the Council would be £47,000 per annum, representing a gross yield of 8.1%, and a net return of 6.5%, and that the expected repayment period was forecasted as 13 years and 4 months.

1. What has been the gross and net returns on this investment in 2016/17, 2017/18, and the current year to date?
2. Will the expected repayment period be achieved? If not, what is the anticipated repayment period?