

## COUNCIL MEETING

24<sup>th</sup> February 2020

### QUESTION FROM A MEMBER OF THE PUBLIC FOR ORAL REPLY

**1. From Nelson Pallister to the Portfolio Holder for Children, Education and Families**

In the event of a disciplinary foster panel, under what government legislation or local rules, regulations or guidance -

(a) is the panel permitted to hold a pre-meeting with Social Services from which the accused foster carers are excluded, and

(b) are the accused foster carers forbidden to have anyone speak on their behalf, bearing in mind that foster carers, whose expertise is in offering care not engaging in legal activities, may well be totally unfamiliar with the formality and confrontational approach of a panel meeting, whilst Social Services has access to all the legal and other resources of the Council as well as having individuals trained in appearing before a panel?

**2. From Sheila Grace to the Portfolio Holder for Resources, Commissioning and Contract Management**

Why, when there is a widely accepted Climate Emergency and the Council has committed to achieving net zero from its own emissions by 2029, is the Council's Annual Investment Strategy completely silent on the impact and risks of fossil fuel investments on the climate and makes no moves to divest from such harmful investments?

**3. From Sheila Grace to the Portfolio Holder for Resources, Commissioning and Contract Management**

Is the Council satisfied with the PDS scrutiny of the Annual Investment Strategy, given that it dismisses consideration of the environmental policies of organisations in which it invests on the grounds that 'it would be a significant piece of work to conduct the necessary due diligence' and 'the market was "doing a good job" filtering out companies that had a more negative impact on the environment'? (Page 156, 2<sup>nd</sup> paragraph)