

MEETING OF FULL COUNCIL – 6 November 2023

AGENDA ITEM 10

QUESTIONS RECEIVED PURSUANT TO COUNCIL PROCEDURE RULE NO. 9

**1) Question to the Leader of the Council, from Councillor Chris Darcel –
Local Ward Member for Cherry Willingham**

“A Cherry Willingham resident has requested I ask the Council to join and support the “Planning for the Planet” organisation, www.foodfortheplanet.org.uk/councillors. I know the Council is rightly concerned about our environment and that the District Council has limited power to influence matters, but in supporting Planning for the Planet, I believe the Council will be making one further step to help preserve a viable planet for our grandchildren.

Personally, I believe this action should have been taken as a result of the Kyoto Agreement 32 years ago, but better late than never.

Will the Leader of the Council commit to asking the Environment and Sustainability Member Working Group to explore the feasibility of joining Planning for the Planet, if we do not already belong, as a matter of urgency, and can he confirm that our Environmental Protection Officers are currently enforcing the Nitrate Vulnerable Zone legislation and the General Binding Rules for small sewage discharge to the ground that were brought in a few years ago?

Thank you.”

**2) Question to the Leader of the Council, from Councillor Paul Swift –
Local Ward Member for Dunholme and Welton**

“Leader of the Council,

It has been mentioned in media reports including by the BBC[1] and My Local Lincolnshire[2] as well as included in the Home Office’s Scampton Factsheet[3] that West Lindsey District Council will receive £3,500 for each new and occupied bed space at the Scampton asylum centre once it is up and running.

What is unclear is exactly when and under what conditions this money will be received when costs to the council and other local bodies are already being incurred, over what time span it is intended to cover expenditure for, how the money will be spent or divided with other authorities, and most importantly for taxpayers, if it is enough to cover the actual costs.

There is an intimation in some quarters including by a former Chief Immigration Officer at Border Force[4] that West Lindsey District Council is being “paid off” by the Home Office and will turn a profit from Scampton being used as an asylum centre,

which as Members being privy to draft financial plans, we know this to be wholly not the case and that we are in fact likely to have our finances negatively impacted by the Government's disastrous and unwelcome plan. The tax burden of which the Government appears intent for our residents to unfairly pay for.

Can the Leader of the Council please give a breakdown of: a) how and when the money will be received; b) over what time frame it is intended to cover (and beyond that if it is a recurringly granted sum); c) what the split with other local bodies will be; d) what it will be spent on; e) whether the council stands to gain or lose financially and if so by how much, and; f) how might the Home Office's sparse funding impact our residents' tax bill compared with other Lincolnshire districts that don't have this intrusive and ill thought out plan forced upon them?

Thank you."

References:

1. <https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/uk-england-lincolnshire-67145553>
2. <https://mylocal.co.uk/lincolnshire/feed/118078>
3. <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/asylum-accommodation-factsheets/factsheet-raf-scampton-asylum-accommodation-accessible>
4. https://www.linkedin.com/posts/kevin-saunders-8370a5199_raf-scampton-i-had-to-smile-when-listening-activity-7047537392131395584-d9B0