

## **NORTH DEVON COUNCIL**

**COUNCIL: 20 JULY 2022**

### **QUESTIONS TO THE LEADER OR THE CHAIR OF A COMMITTEE SUBMITTED UNDER PART 4 COUNCIL PROCEDURE RULES, PARAGRAPH 10.4 OF THE CONSTITUTION**

#### **Question for the Leader from Councillor Lane**

“With the difficulty of recruiting staff to the planning Department, can you confirm that the pay scale in other authority areas are similar to that being offered by this authority for staff of the same pay scale planning experience?”

#### **Councillor Worden, Leader’s response**

“Most local authorities are having very real difficulties recruiting staff to different areas and professions. The most well publicised example has been HGV drivers but it also affects many other areas including housing, environmental health and planning. The salaries paid to officers working within the council are settled by evaluating the posts against other posts of equal complexity, skill or hardship. This is to ensure that good practice is followed around equal pay.

It is probably fair to say that when comparing pay within the council to pay at other authorities, the position varies depending on which profession or post is being compared against with councils.”

#### **Question for the Leader from Councillor Pearson**

“Could we please have an update on the replacement of incandescent bulbs with LEDs, and the plans for installing solar panels on NDC property to help offset increasing energy costs and give security of energy supply?”

#### **Councillor Worden, Leader’s response**

“In relation to LED lighting, the capital bid to progress this is on the Full Council agenda for approval as part of the Quarter 4 performance report. Once approved, the project will progress.

In relation to PV panels, we are currently assessing all of the council buildings for suitability for installation and will then be examining the best approach to funding for installation.”