Uttlesford District Council Meeting 16 July 2024

Written Questions to Members of the Executive and Committee Chairs

Written responses to be published on 15 July 2024

1. By Councillor Gregory to Councillor Coote – Portfolio Holder for Housing:

"To ask Cllr Coote what progress has been made on remediation of the problems discovered at Reynolds Ct, the cost to date and the extent to which those costs have been recovered?

When does he think this matter will finally be resolved?"

Response from Councillor Coote:

"Thank you for your question regarding the progress on remediation of issues at Reynolds Court. I'm pleased to provide you with an update on the current situation.

Lovells has commenced the final phase of system commissioning at Reynolds Court as of 24th June 2024. During this process, final system adjustments will be made. The works are scheduled for completion on 2nd July 2024. We anticipate that after this there will be some minor additional snagging matters but these should be relatively minor. Following the completion of these works, we will arrange a meeting with Lovells to review all works and ensure satisfactory completion. We have engaged an independent engineer to monitor Lovells during these works, with instructions to notify UDC if any part of the process appears unnecessary or could potentially cause system issues. I appreciate the desire of Members to understand the full costs of this project and the details of any recovery made. As Members will appreciate that the present time this remains commercially sensitive as we work with the contractor to ensure residents get the works completed and we are able to recover the costs due to the Council. Currently we have not recovered any costs pending the completion of the works and I will update Members at an appropriate time with the resolution of these discussions.

In response to your point of clarification regarding the final resolution of this matter, we anticipate that the current phase of works will address the immediate issues. However, the process of cost recovery and any potential legal proceedings may extend the timeframe for full resolution. We are working diligently to bring this matter to a close as

swiftly as possible while ensuring all necessary steps are taken to protect the council's interests.

We will continue to keep you updated on any significant developments. If you require any further information, please don't hesitate to ask."