

## **Agenda Item 16: Questions on Notice Under Council Procedure 12**

### Question from Councillor David Whitaker to Councillor Cary Matthews.

A lot of media and people are getting excited about seeing work slowly commencing on the Eden site and we all should celebrate that, but Eden is clearly going to have a detrimental impact on some members of our community, and it already is with greedy property speculators taking advantage of the recent news.

What has The Council done and will do to ensure that people are not forced out of their homes as a result of Eden and the ongoing rise in the cost of living?

### Written Response from Councillor Matthews:

I can confirm that housing teams have been contacted and confirm the following:-

Whilst there has been an increase in private sector evictions post Covid as a result of the evictions ban restrictions being lifted, there has been no disproportionate increase in evictions in Morecambe to date.

The Private Sector Housing Standards Team will continue to work with private sector landlords to prevent unlawful evictions occurring and will take enforcement action where necessary.

The council's Housing Options Team will proactively work with any local residents to prevent homelessness wherever possible and will take homelessness applications from anyone who is threatened with homelessness. Income maximisation and advice around debt issues already forms part of the work undertaken by the Housing Options Team as well as signposting to any other appropriate advice agency.

The most common reason for homelessness applications being made continues to be relationship breakdown/family no longer able to accommodate.

The Housing Options Team will of course keep a close eye on this and members will be able to gain a more in depth analysis when the homelessness strategy is presented to Cabinet later this year.

Should you have any further queries then please do not hesitate in contacting me.