

COUNCIL – 10<sup>TH</sup> FEBRUARY 2022 – SO 30 QUESTIONS

## Question from Councillor O'Driscoll

***“Residents have brought to my attention that, for several days in recent weeks, there have been power cuts in Whyteleafe. This has caused traffic lights to fail and homes and businesses to be left without lighting and in some cases heating as well. Local residents and I feel this is unacceptable.***

***What steps can this Council take to address fixing this with UK Power Networks?”***

*Response from Councillor Sayer (as Leader of the Council)*

*Although the Council has no authority over energy companies, I will arrange for a letter to be sent from this Council to UK Power Networks expressing the concerns of residents and local councillors and requesting information about the cause of the problems and the steps being taken to rectify them. It might also be useful if individual councillors also wrote to UK Power Networks to back up the message.*

## Question from Councillor Moore

***“As a civil penalty for offences under the Housing Act 2004 is to be determined by taking into account 'harm caused to the tenant' does this civil option allow for compensation to be apportioned to the tenant for such harm?”***

*Response from Councillor Pursehouse (as Chair of the Housing Committee)*

*In short, the answer is no. The assessment of harm or risk of harm to the tenant is only used by the officers in determining the level of civil penalty. Under the section of the legislation relating to civil penalties, there is no recourse for the tenant to claim compensation.*

*However, the tenant may make an application for a Rent Repayment Order, a form of compensation, where the landlord has committed certain offences. Further information can be provided about this or the officer concerned can contact you directly.*