

In accordance with Council Procedure Rule No.11 Councillor Corbin will ask the Leader of the Council the following question:

We are all aware of the precarious financial situation for several councils across the UK.

We have learned of financial difficulties for our neighbours in Derby City for example, and, most recently, we have heard about the Section 114 order issued by Birmingham who are effectively bankrupt. A shocking development for Europe's biggest local council.

Here in South Derbyshire, the current Medium Term Financial Plan shows that this council will run out of money in 4 years.

Whilst there are some questions to be answered on funding matters that lie outside of the control of SDDC, recent presentations to council of the MTFP were not accurate financial forecasts for this council, with approximately £1m in business rates not factored in.

We now have a new head of finance in place – whom, I believe has the potential to be a real asset to SDDC – and I understand Tracy Bingham is working on financial strategies for the council's future. As an aside, we also welcome the finance department's new aspiration for preparing and presenting on financial matters in a clearer and simpler way.

The starting point for any new strategy, however, must be accurate and live financial data and proper financial forecasting.

So, with that mind, and in the spirit of empowering all councillors with a clearer understanding of this council's financial position, will the leader commit providing this and commit to a date by when we will have a correct, up-to-date, and accurate financial plan containing correct, accurate and live finance data?