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SENT VIA E-MAIL ONLY TO: [g\[REDACTED\]@co.uk](mailto:g[REDACTED]@co.uk)

Dear Mr Smith

Thank you for your letter of 16 July regarding the proposed Ladywood regeneration project.

This project is key to the sustainable growth and development of the city, and I firmly believe that the regeneration of Ladywood Estate will address both social and environmental issues and deliver significant benefits for the local community and wider Birmingham economy.

But I also understand that such a major project can be unsettling - especially in the early stages when people have a number of questions - and I want to be clear that our aim throughout will be to work with and listen to the people of Ladywood and if trust needs to be built, we will do everything we possibly can to earn and build that trust.

Your two ward councillors - Cllr Sir Albert Bore and Cllr Kath Hartley - have served the people of Ladywood with distinction for many years and have championed local residents throughout the initial development of this project. I have no doubt they will continue to play vital roles in what we are determined will be an open and collaborative process and I know that where necessary, both will ask the awkward questions on behalf of residents.

As requested, I attach correspondence sent by your ward councillors to residents in relation to this project since the start of 2019.

Cllr's Bore and Hartley will be joined by council officers and representatives from development partner St Joseph Homes Ltd at Thursday night's Ward Forum, when a number of questions will be answered about the way forward for this project. This is not a formal consultation event but nevertheless is the start of our engagement

process and we will work with your MP, councillors, residents, businesses, and other organisations throughout this process.

To that end, the council will be going out to tender for a consultation specialist to help, assist and support the local community during the lead up to and during the consultation period. The successful applicant will be independent from St Joseph and will act on behalf of the council with the best interest of the local community.

As you would expect, the consultation will help to shape the final project, so it is impossible to have answers to every single question for every single resident at this stage.

What I can say at this stage is that council tenants and registered providers will be re-housed in new homes in one single move, while council tenants in the seven tower blocks will have their homes refurbished. They will not be asked to move out during this phase.

For Private homeowners, the Council will work with St Joseph and/or external grant providing bodies to explore the provision of suitable financial mechanisms to assist existing owners in acquiring their new property in the proposed development. This could be through either shared ownership opportunities or direct grant subsidy, dependent on the status of the property owner, the applicant, and the range of market products available at that time.

Since becoming leader of the council in May, I have been clear that I will be open and transparent in everything I do, and I absolutely appreciate the importance of openness when it comes to such a major project. I hope we can begin that process at Thursday's meeting and that we can establish ongoing dialogue based on trust and openness.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'John Cotton', with a horizontal line underneath.

Councillor John Cotton
Leader of Birmingham City Council