



**CITY COUNCIL
9 JANUARY 2024**

**WRITTEN
QUESTIONS TO
CABINET MEMBERS
AND CHAIRS**

CITY COUNCIL – 9 JANUARY 2024

WRITTEN QUESTIONS

A To the Leader of the Council

1. Staff Release for Union Duties

From Councillor Adam Higgs

2. Job Evaluation Funding from Policy Contingency

From Councillor Adrian Delaney

3. Ladywood Right to Return

From Councillor Darius Sandhu

4. 8 Principles

From Councillor David Barrie

5. Special Advisor

From Councillor David Pears

6. Equal Pay Pensions Impact

From Councillor Ewan Mackey

7. Ladywood Masterplan

From Councillor Deirdre Alden

8. Equal Pay Milestones

From Councillor Gareth Moore

9. Equal Pay Talks

From Councillor Kerry Brewer

10. Ladywood Consultation

From Councillor Matt Bennett

11. Task and Finish

From Councillor Richard Parkin

12. Conflicts of Interest

From Councillor Rick Payne

13. **Task and Finish End Date**
From Councillor Robert Alden
14. **Community Organiser**
From Councillor Timothy Huxtable
15. **Resident Charter**
From Councillor Bruce Lines
16. **Section 25 Statement Agreement**
From Councillor Debbie Clancy
17. **Project Resource Ladywood**
From Councillor Ken Wood
18. **Ladywood Estate Regeneration Revenue Commitment**
From Councillor Ron Storer
19. **Equal Pay Letters from the Unions**
From Councillor Roger Harmer

B To the Deputy Leader of the Council

1. **Risk Registers**
From Councillor Robert Alden
2. **Prior Knowledge of Potential Equal Pay Liability**
From Councillor Alex Yip
3. **GMB Ballot**
From Councillor Bruce Lines

C To the Cabinet Member for Children Young People and Families

NONE SUBMITTED

D To the Cabinet Member for Digital, Culture, Heritage & Tourism

1. **365 Licenses**
From Councillor Meirion Jenkins

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**WRITTEN QUESTION TO THE LEADER OF THE COUNCIL FROM COUNCILLOR
DARIUS SANDHU**

“Ladywood right to return”

Question:

Will all residents who wish to stay in Ladywood be offered a replacement property on a full like-for-like basis following the Ladywood estate regeneration?

Answer:

BCC tenants will be allocated properties on the basis of the BCC allocations policy, and in line with the option to return policy, to match their current housing need.

We are working with the preferred bidder (St Joseph’s - a wholly owned subsidiary of Berkeley Homes) and partner agencies to explore options which will enable other residents of all housing tenures to remain in Ladywood as the regeneration is delivered.

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WRITTEN QUESTION TO THE LEADER OF THE COUNCIL FROM COUNCILLOR DAVID BARRIE

“8 principles”

Question:

What are the ‘8 principles’ the council is operating under for the Ladywood regeneration scheme? Please note this refers to the 8 principles mentioned by Ladywood Ward Councillors to residents

Answer:

The 8 principles were set out in the Spring 2019 original Cabinet report. They were also set out in communications by Ward Members including:

- Letters to all households within the regeneration area, from the Ward Members, in June 2019 and June 2023, the latter inviting people to the Ward Forum of 20 July 2023.
- The content of the Ward Forum in July 2023.
- Hand delivered newsletters across the area.
- Letters and email updates to residents who had responded via response slips.

The 8 principles are:

- To secure high quality, sustainable new homes as part of a well-designed neighbourhood.
- To provide a safe and attractive network of connected public open spaces and pedestrian routes.
- To create a new local centre with facilities and amenities to serve the local community.
- To enable the enhancement of the canal through improved access and greater levels of utility and interface with development.
- To create improved connections across the Middleway including boulevarding.
- To create a complementary mix of commercial and other uses to support a vibrant active neighbourhood.
- To provide new, high quality social housing.
- To ensure that the existing community is retained and involved in the development of the new neighbourhood.

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**WRITTEN QUESTION TO THE LEADER OF THE COUNCIL FROM COUNCILLOR
DEIRDRE ALDEN**

“Ladywood Masterplan”

Question:

Please share a copy of the indicative masterplan for Ladywood developed by Berkeley Homes as part of their bid for the scheme.

Answer:

The Council are presently engaged in carrying out consultation for the purpose of developing a masterplan for the regeneration of the Ladywood Estate.

There is no indicative masterplan developed by Berkeley Homes. Proposal plans developed by Berkeley Homes did form part of the confidential discussion documents which were prepared for the structured negotiations which took place with Berkeley Homes, as part of the formal procurement process leading to the recommendation that they be appointed, but there is no such ‘indicative masterplan’ document to share.

A masterplan will be developed for the purposes of the formal decision-making processes of the Council, as the local planning authority, which will be shared and consulted upon before it is formally adopted.

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WRITTEN QUESTION TO THE LEADER OF THE COUNCIL FROM COUNCILLOR
MATT BENNETT

“Ladywood Consultation”

Question:

When will formal consultation on the development and the CPOs take place for the Ladywood regeneration scheme?

Answer:

Consultation on the scheme will only commence when a contract with the preferred bidder, (St Joseph’s a wholly owned subsidiary of Berkeley Homes), is in place.

There will be no CPO progressed until Planning Consent is secured.

We anticipate that the planning application for Ladywood will be submitted for consideration in 2025.

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**WRITTEN QUESTION TO THE LEADER OF THE COUNCIL FROM COUNCILLOR
TIMOTHY HUXTABLE**

“Community Organiser”

Question:

Who is the community organiser for Ladywood, following previous commitments made by the council to appoint one?

Answer:

The Council is currently engaging with the Ladywood community through enhanced existing structures within the Place, Neighbourhoods, and Housing teams.

A Programme Director has been appointed and has been in post since late October 2023, leading the Council's in-house project management and community engagement team.

The Neighbourhood Action Coordinator for Ladywood, part of the Neighbourhoods team, is engaging local community groups and voluntary organisations to support the regeneration project. They are also involved in the Community Development Trust for Ladywood.

Officers from City Housing are coordinating community engagement work to ensure that all Ladywood residents and stakeholders are fully engaged in the Ladywood regeneration project and that their voices are heard, and comments acted upon.

Other appointments will be made as the programme progresses in line with the Cabinet approval, subject to necessary S151 approval.

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WRITTEN QUESTION TO THE LEADER OF THE COUNCIL FROM COUNCILLOR BRUCE LINES

“Resident Charter”

Question:

Please provide a copy of the Resident Charter referred to at a recent public meeting for the Ladywood Estate Regeneration? If this has not been finalised, please state when it will be finished and if and when residents will be able to comment ahead of adoption?

Answer:

The Ladywood Residents Charter is currently being drafted in consultation with the local community and stakeholders. The programme is as follows:

The Resident & Community Charter survey went live on Thursday 21 December and will remain open for 6 weeks to give the community adequate time to submit their responses. The survey can be accessed via this link <https://forms.office.com/e/6wZgNjW1BY>.

The survey includes a breakdown of the key themes shared by residents at the community workshops held in the autumn. It is recommended that residents review the feedback for each section before submitting their responses.

Details of the survey have been distributed via the Ladywood Regeneration Newsletter. At present this has been issued to those who have agreed to join the mailing list. We have been encouraging completion of the contact form, which allows residents to share their contact details, let us know about any access issues and tell us the ways in which they would like to be involved. Increasing the number of residents sharing their contact details will help us to ensure that as many people as possible receive communications. The link for the contact form is <https://forms.office.com/e/PWFK59SAGW>. We have also made a phone line available (0121 216 1002) for people who do not have access to the online contact form or need support with completing it.

We are committed to ensuring as many residents as possible have their say in shaping the Residents & Community Charter by taking the following actions in the new year.

Throughout January there will be:

- Posters placed in communal areas across the estate.
- Door knocking to make residents aware of the survey.
- Surgeries to support those that either don't have the necessary digital access or need help with completing the survey. Surgeries will be provided

by the Birmingham City Council project team. We will also be working with a number of community organisations to run surgeries.

- The most vulnerable residents who have told us that they need help will be supported by either a telephone call or a home visit.
- The Ladywood Regeneration webpage is in the process of being updated to reflect this information.

Door knocking will commence from 15 January and details of the dates and times of surgeries that are to be held will be updated on the Council's website.

In the meantime, we will be monitoring the number of responses and where these are coming from to help us better target areas where we have been unable to engage.

Further details can be found on the Ladywood page of the Council's website.

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WRITTEN QUESTION TO THE LEADER OF THE COUNCIL FROM COUNCILLOR
KEN WOOD

“Project Resource Ladywood”

Question:

Are all job roles listed in the Project Resource Plan at Appendix 5 of the Ladywood Estate Regeneration Cabinet report now in post and if not, which ones are still to be recruited to and what impact does the non-essential spend freeze have on this?

Answer:

A Programme Director has been appointed and in post since October 2023 and is funded via City Deal. In addition, there is project management, planning, CPO, and property support in place via existing BCC staff.

Other appointments will be made as the project progresses in line with the Cabinet approval, subject to necessary S151 approval.

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**WRITTEN QUESTION TO THE LEADER OF THE COUNCIL FROM COUNCILLOR
RON STORER**

“Ladywood estate regeneration revenue commitment”

Question:

How much of the £242,536 revenue commitment in 23/24 for the Ladywood Estate Regeneration Scheme has so far been spent and on what dates did each payment get Spend Control Board approval and has any approval been sought\approved for the £500k per annum revenue impact for 2024 to 2027?

Answer:

The Cabinet report of 27 June 2023 contained a proposed resourcing plan that identified a sum of £242k in 2023/24 and £500k for the following three years (2024/25 to 2026/27).

Since that time further options have been explored including the use of external funding, and a sum of £382,729 City Deal resources have been obtained which are being used to fund a programme director and consultation activity. Approval was obtained at Spend Control Board for this sum. No further spend has been approved.

Options are being explored which do not impact on General Fund.