

COUNCIL – 28 NOVEMBER 2017

QUESTIONS FROM ELECTED MEMBERS UNDER PROCEDURE RULE 10

3-17 TO COUNCILLOR NAZIR, CABINET MEMBER FOR HOUSING FROM COUNCILLOR SWINDLEHURST (RECEIVED 16.10.17)

“Given that the release of open space is being proposed for development here what tenure of housing are the homes on land at Mercian Way to be subject to when developed out by Slough Urban Renewal? Are these to be for private sale, private rent or are they to be offered for any intermediate/affordable rented product?”

Reply

This has still to be decided. The site could be developed as either: HRA, Commercial or a combination of both. The opportunity also exists for the houses to be acquired by Herschel Homes and rented to key workers using an intermediate rent. The intention is that the decision on tenure, or tenure mix, will be made in conjunction with the lead Cabinet Member.

4-17 TO COUNCILLOR AJAIB, CABINET MEMBER FOR URBAN RENEWAL FROM COUNCILLOR SWINDLEHURST (RECEIVED 21.11.17)

“The last Cabinet paper referring to the Maria Cowland Hall site indicated that SUR was preparing a proposal for flat's on this site, as opposed to the original brief for family homes on the site. The report to the 16th October Cabinet concerning Slough Canal Basin also made reference (in the financial and risks section) to an option of developing a 'non-planning-policy-compliant'. Why is our strategic partner being allowed latitude to explore developing non-planning-policy-compliant schemes, given that both our planning policies and the 'wrapper' were clear at the time of the lengthy tender process to select a partner and establish the partnership? Surely a 50-50 strategic partnership established by and involving Slough Borough Council should seek to develop sites according to the local authority's own planning policies, not deviating from them?”

Reply

Whilst capacity studies have indicated that the site could accommodate either 6 houses or 14 flats, the preference is for low density family accommodation. SUR is developing revised proposals for Stoke Wharf, that currently include circa 250 new homes, the mix being circa 5% houses and 95% apartments. Once the costs and values are established in accordance with the council's viability test(s), SUR will be in a position to confirm the level of affordable housing.

Whilst it should be stressed that SUR is striving to provide a policy compliant scheme, there will need to be consideration of the balance between the ability to provide quality accommodation, high quality public realm and a fully compliant scheme in terms of affordable housing. The role of SUR is to present to the council

a range of options, including the most commercially advantageous, in order that the council can make an informed decision.

The expectation is that more detailed proposals will be presented to the Council by the end of March 2018.

5-17 TO COUNCILLOR MATLOOB, CABINET MEMBER FOR HIGHWAYS AND TRANSPORT FROM COUNCILLOR ANDERSON (RECEIVED 02.11.17)

“Councillor Swindlehurst is our representative on the Heathrow Airport Consultative Committee, which is currently being reconstituted to take on additional powers arising from the proposed airport expansion, evolving into a wider 'Heathrow Community Engagement Board'. In order to ensure that he continues to represent the Council's position effectively as the body becomes more involved in issues concerning the proposed new runway, can you confirm Slough Borough Council still supports the expansion of Heathrow Airport and the proposed additional runway to provide further airport capacity?”

Reply

Yes.