

Question: PQ08.01&02

Cabinet – 6 October 2020

Re: Agenda item 8 – Temple Quarter Development Framework Update

Questions submitted by: Suzanne Audrey

Background

In April 2019, the Environment Agency raised concerns with Colin Molton, then Bristol's interim director of growth and regeneration, about "a disconnect between the development of the flood risk strategy and your aspirations for growth and development". Plans for St Phillip's Marsh, part of the Temple Quarter area, and Western Harbour were of concern. The Environment Agency stated: "If these come forward in the absence of a strategy setting out how wider flood risk will be managed then we will, in accordance with national planning policy, be duty bound to object on flood risk grounds as development in these areas would make flood risk worse elsewhere. This is not where we want to be and really illustrates the difficulty in taking a piecemeal approach to development and regeneration." In a subsequent meeting with Bristol City Council officers, the Environment Agency asserted its 'red lines': significant development in areas of flood risk must not be supported in the absence of a strategy and nor can areas be protected in isolation as it will increase flood risk elsewhere. In response, Colin Molton said delivery of flood defences would be "development led" and it was agreed he would "consider inviting" a representative of the Environment Agency onto the project steering group for Temple Quarter. It is not clear from the notes of the meeting why this had not already been considered.

Question 1: Is a representative of the Environment Agency now on the project steering group for Temple Quarter?

Question 2: The Temple Quarter – Development Update indicates agreement to appoint a Project Director initially on a 2 year fixed term to lead the team. Please can you give details of the process that will be followed to recruit and appoint the Project Director, including compliance with the Council's equality and inclusion policy?