

Question: CQ12.02

Cabinet – 22 June 2021

Re: Agenda item 12 – South Bristol Light Industrial Workspace

Question submitted by: Councillor Tony Dyer

It is good news to see new industrial workshops being created in Bristol and I fully support the change request to WECA.

I am also aware that, in areas like Bedminster Green for example but also in the TQEZ, we are seeing some industrial workspaces being replaced by residential led development. As a result we have existing businesses facing potential closure due to a lack of alternative workspaces being available.

Question:

What assessment is being made of the overall need for all industrial workspace in South Bristol to replace those being lost due to existing and proposed major developments?

Reply:

1. The One City Economic Recovery and Renewal Strategy makes clear our priorities to:
 - Enable development to ensure provision for future homes, jobs and quality places
 - Protect employment levels
 - Building skills and improving pathways to work for young people and groups disadvantaged in the labour market
 - Create opportunities for better employment, particularly in green industries.
2. Studies of employment land are currently being produced at both Bristol and West of England levels, the emerging findings of which are currently being considered.
3. Both of these documents will inform the development of the West of England Spatial Development Strategy and the next iteration of the Bristol Local Plan Review and the future direction of employment land policy.
4. Running in parallel officers are embarking on a significant business engagement exercise in several of the areas of growth and regeneration identified in the Bristol Local Plan review, with the aim of:
 - Building up a comprehensive understanding of the business base
 - Helping local businesses to engage in discussions around the future of these areas
 - Identifying how best we can support these businesses and by doing so ensure the delivery of inclusive economic growth going forward.