

Question: CQ08.01&02

Cabinet – 5 October 2021

Re: Agenda item 8 - Temple Quarter Update

Questions submitted by: Councillor Paula O'Rourke

First of all, I would like to thank the officer for the report which is accessible and readable. The narrative tells a story of ambition and risk. This is 'one of the largest city centre housing and development schemes in Europe', it covers 130 hectares in total. The six recommendations within the report are dependent on funding not yet secured, however, the point is made – and accepted – that we need to continue to progress if we are to hold on to our ambitious masterplan, as developers are moving independently.

The difficulty of keeping all the many moving parts progressing is acknowledged in the report. As is the very tentative status of all the funding required. Yet, the report delegates a tremendous amount of decision-making to a small minority of individuals and bypasses both Cabinet and councillors.

Questions

1. Can the Mayor and Cabinet review the report and put in some milestones when the various elements of the six different aspects (or purposes) of the report could be brought back to be ratified by Cabinet? I believe it is possible to improve democratic oversight without loss of agility to the officers leading the projects.
2. Purpose 5 of the report refers to the enabling work on the land at Temple Island and the 'disposal to Legal and General'. I could find little information on the disposal agreement in the report. While I understand that there are commercial sensitivities to be considered, can I have as much information on the conditions of the disposal as is possible to put in the public domain?