

Cllr Ian Wingfield
Chair of Overview and Scrutiny Committee

Via email

Date: 9th September 2023

Dear Cllr Wingfield

Canada Estate Major Works

Following a request from the Rotherhithe ward councillors, including Cllr Roberts who is a member of the Overview and Scrutiny committee, we are requesting that the most recent major works that have taken place on the Canada Estate are considered by the Overview and Scrutiny Committee.

The works started in October 2020 with the erection of the scaffolding to regina Point, followed by the scaffolding going up on Columbia Point a few weeks later. When the original consultation with residents and ward councillors took place it was estimated that the works would take approximately 14 months. However the contractors were on site for almost three years, a delay of 17 months.

The litany of mistakes and delays that were caused by the contractors themselves, and indeed the Council's mishandling of the contract have meant that the total cost of the project has risen by over £1.7m from the original estimate of £4.8m to £6.5m. This will not only impact the Housing Revenue Account but will also add thousands of pounds of extra costs onto leaseholders, many of whom are struggling with the cost of living crisis.

The work that has been completed on the estate has been of a generally poor standard and in the opinion of the ward councillors does not constitute value for money. There have been numerous complaints about the windows whistling in winds and poor workmanship in the painting and decorating of the blocks. Furthermore, we believe that the consultation with residents and the ward councillors has been below what we expect from the Council and that having to rectify the initial lack of consultation led to delays in the project.

Yours sincerely,

Cllr Laura Johnson Cllr Margy Newens Cllr Bethan Roberts

