

COUNCIL ASSEMBLY

(ORDINARY)

WEDNESDAY 20 OCTOBER 2010

PUBLIC QUESTION TIME

1. QUESTION FROM SHEILA FAIRFIELD TO THE DEPUTY LEADER AND CABINET MEMBER FOR HOUSING MANAGEMENT

Would the cabinet member for housing confirm that the promised security works on the Four Squares Estate will be completed across the whole estate as planned?

RESPONSE

Due to overspending and decisions made before May 2010 there is no current funding for security works in the current two year programme through to 2012. The priorities for future investment in the council's stock will be considered by the cabinet in November 2010, including these security works. Residents will be fully consulted, between November and February 2011 with a final post consultation report back to the cabinet in April 2011 to enable future investment programmes to be finalised. You will be able to feed in your views into this wider consultation before the future programme is agreed by cabinet.

SUPPLEMENTAL QUESTION FROM SHEILA FAIRFIELD TO THE DEPUTY LEADER AND CABINET MEMBER FOR HOUSING MANAGEMENT

Thank you for seeing us yesterday at cabinet, in that meeting we gave you evidence that no decision had been made to stop security works. Please could you tell us what you are doing to investigate the conflicting information that councillors and residents have been given by officers and the question asked about leaseholder contributions. Thank you.

RESPONSE

Thank you for that supplemental question, yes as you rightly say we met yesterday at the cabinet meeting and it became quite clear to all of us at that meeting that there was a certain amount of confusion over the responses that we had been given at various stages indeed evidence was provided during that meeting to that effect. Therefore the cabinet agreed with Councillor Hargrove's suggestion that the whole matter should be referred to the housing scrutiny committee for it to investigate in full detail as to the background and to exactly what did or did not happen at what particular times. And I am anxious just as much as anybody else to get to the bottom of that as quickly as possible. In relation to the leaseholders and to the security works etc. I have raised that question with the officers as I promised I would do yesterday and I am still waiting for that particular feedback but what I will say to you is absolutely clear is that next month when the cabinet does meet the cabinet will consider what the decent homes programme will be and as part of that consideration we will look very seriously at the situation with your security works. I can't give a clearer

commitment here this evening because obviously we have got to be fair to everybody else in the borough when we consider the decent homes programme and other capital investment when the cabinet meets next week, so as much as I would like to say yes to you this evening, unfortunately I can't because I would be being unfair to others. But I am giving you that solemn commitment we will be looking at it next month and we will give you a definite response month. So thank you again.