

COUNCIL – 5TH SEPTEMBER 2022

ITEM 10 QUESTIONS ON NOTICE

10.1 Councillor Miah – Limehurst Depot

Can the lead member update Council on what is happening with the council site known as Limehurst Depot located on Limehurst Avenue?

Does the council have any plans for the site? Or is it confirmed to be sold?

And in the interim can the buildings on site be made good to be let out as short-term business start-up units or for storage?

The Leader or his nominee will respond:

Limehurst Depot has been vacant since Sept 2015, and since that time, aside from its use as a COVID testing centre, it has served no functional purpose for the Council. In 2018, Cabinet authorised officers to commission development appraisals for the site which included housing alone and a mix of housing and commercial. None of the options yielded positive or neutral returns to the Council, and the appraisal determined that the best option was to sell the site as-is at the pre-planning stage.

In March 2022, Cabinet declared the site surplus to requirement and authorised the site for sale with minimal conditions in order to maximise the site and bring this brownfield opportunity forward for development. An informal, competitive tender was undertaken over 6 weeks with 17 sealed bids received. These were evaluated and a single bidder chosen.

The sale of Limehurst Depot completed on 16 Aug 2022 and has delivered a capital receipt to the Council of £2m and has reduced General Fund revenue costs by approximately £50k per year as insurance and business rates will no longer need to be paid. The Council has no further interest in or control of the site.

The site was sold without conditions and it is now for the developer to derive a concept and follow the planning process.

QUESTIONS ON NOTICE TO COUNCIL – PROCEDURE

- Councillors are required to submit a question on notice in writing by 12noon on the eighth working day prior to Council, the title of the question is published on the Council Agenda.
- Questions and responses will be published at the end of the previous working day (usually the Friday prior to a Council meeting on a Monday) and will be available at the Council meeting for Councillors, the press, and the public.

- After the questions and responses are published **Councillors may indicate that they wish to ask a supplementary question by noon on the day of the Council meeting.**
- The Mayor will invite those Councillors who have indicated that they wish to do so to ask a supplementary question.
- The Leader (or relevant Lead Member on behalf of the Leader) or Chair of the Committee is able to respond.
- The total time each person can speak on a single question is time limited.