

Cabinet

27 September 2017

Written Questions from Councillors (Agenda Item No 6)

The following written question has been submitted by Councillor Ient which he wishes to ask of the Leader of the Council, Councillor Smith:

The North Street Quarter planning application was given permission over a year ago on Wed 25 May 2016. I note from the Cabinet report on page 99 (item 5.10) that the planning permission for the scheme will expire in May 2019. I also note that the only milestone included in the report to Cabinet is agreement on “a number of matters” by 31 December 2017. This is more than 18 months after the planning permission was granted and the project will still not be ‘shovel ready’! That will leave less than 18 months to physically commence the building project. I believe this is a most concerning situation.

The only other reference I can find is on page 24 of the portfolio progress and performance schedule where a green arrow is indicated with simply the words, ‘demolition work is due to commence on site in the spring of 2018’.

My question is this:

Please would the Leader advise if demolition can be considered ‘starting the project’ from a planning point of view and what, at least at high-level, would be the ongoing programme leading to the first phase being ready for occupation?