

Cabinet

2 July 2018

Public question time

(Agenda item no 5)

The following written questions have been submitted by Sheila O'Sullivan which she wishes to ask of the Leader of the Council and Cabinet Member for Regeneration and Business, Councillor Smith

Agenda item 17 (North Street Quarter): page 147

Cabinet is being asked to fund through an allocation of £700,000 the development of a temporary car park (recommendations 2 and 3) from its capital programme.

Why is this decision being wholly financed by LDC? Why are the NSQ landowners (Mas Rei) not contributing to this work and/or why is it not be co-financed. Or provision made as part of the Land Collaboration Agreement.

Please provide detailed reasons as to why the total burden is falling on LDC. And what detailed assessment has been made to justify this expenditure.

Written response:

In terms of the North Street Quarter scheme that has been granted planning permission (which includes the S106 legal agreement), there is no requirement on the part of the landowners to provide a temporary public car park during construction of Phase 1. The development and operation of a temporary car park would therefore not be considered as a development cost to the scheme.

The Council is aware, however, that the temporary loss of 220 off-street and on-street public parking spaces in the area would have a highly detrimental impact on the town. It is a concern that has been consistently raised by stakeholder groups involved in the project.

Prior to drafting plans for the temporary car park the Council carried out feasibility including operating costs and projected annual income. We have also secured an independent cost estimate for the construction of the temporary car park.

We will be looking to secure the most competitive terms for the car park's construction and will want to maximise the length of operation of the car park in order to recoup as much of the Council's investment as possible.