

ECONOMY REGENERATION & HOUSING COMMITTEE

Wednesday, 6 December 2023

54 **ADDENDUM: SUPPLEMENTAL QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS**

Mr Alan Featherstone:

“Has the feasibility report that would then reduce the square meterage by 50% of traders been made available to councillors?”

Answer: The Council are in the process of ensuring that all Councillors have a copy of the relevant report.

Mr Joe Orr:

“We have over 1400 signatures from the community rejecting the proposed move to Argos. Can you outline further if you have conducted any surveys to gauge public opinion of the local community?”

Answer: Following the decision at committee on the 6th Dec, further engagement will take place with traders on the options being considered.

Mr Tommy Roberts:

“I thought that to build a new market was £15 million, with funding from the government, but now we’re only getting allocated £6 million to do a refurbishment of Argos, I just wondered where the other £9 million was going?”

Answer: The £6m investment in the Princess pavement option is based on a concept design budget cost estimate and will be developed further to inform the actual cost of delivering this option.

Mr Sean Martin:

“I don’t know if you’re familiar with the computer game Sims, it’s a game where kids create a house and a family, and then they build a town around this, it’s an idyllic creation in their eyes, but of course it’s a figment of their imagination. The New Brighton Master Plan reminds me of Sims. The buildings produced by the architects of this plan resemble the buildings of this game. It has three new hotels, a floating lido, cafes and bars, open public spaces adorn the leisure strip, with no cars allowed, a minimum of 300 new

homes on this short strip, but no infrastructure to support them. And do you know what makes it even more of a joke? There's no plan to secure funding to deliver it. The private landowners have to deliver it themselves with no help from the Council, and to complicate it even more, regeneration will compete with planning to make it even more difficult. New Brighton has been let down by this Master Plan. When will the Council put this right?"

Answer: The publication of a Marine Promenade Masterplan is a requirement of the Local Plan. The aim of the Masterplan is to ensure that development proposals come forward in a coordinated and planned way, while providing flexibility by setting out a number of potential design options for each site. The Masterplan will also provide a robust basis for the Council to bid for future sources of public funding, by setting out a clear vision and set of priorities for the area. Council planning officers have been involved in the development of the Masterplan. Once approved, the Masterplan will form a material consideration in planning decisions, and the Council would encourage landowners and developers to engage with the Council's pre-application planning service prior to the submission of a planning application.