

APPENDIX A – WRITTEN RESPONSES TO QUESTIONS THAT WERE NOT PUT AT THE FULL COUNCIL MEETING (21 NOVEMBER 2018)

9.15 Question from Councillor Tarik Khan:

Will the gas holders in St. Peter's be protected under the Tower Hamlets local plan?

Response from Councillor Rachel Blake, Deputy Mayor for Regeneration and Air Quality.

The gasholders are not listed but are located in a designated conservation area (Regents Canal Conservation area) and the detailed policy guidance specific to this is set out in the Regents Canal Conservation Area Character Appraisal and Management Plan, November 2009. The appraisal acknowledges the importance that the gasholders play within the conservation area.

The wording of the design principles for Marian Place Gas Works and The Oval reflect this emphasis as it states that development is expected to 'retain, reuse and enhance the existing heritage assets including no.2 and no. 5 gasholders'.

Parts 2, 3 and 4 of Policy S.DH3 set out the requirements of developments that affect a Conservation Area. Given that the gasholders fall within the conservation area, any application for development affecting them would need to meet those policy requirements.

9.16 Question from Councillor Rabina Khan

Why did LBTH under Mayor Biggs secure only 13 million pounds of grant funding for housing from the GLA and could he clarify the number of 1,2 and 3 bedrooms that he bid for?

Response from Councillor Rachel Blake, Deputy Mayor for Regeneration and Air Quality.

Firstly I would like to warmly welcome the news that the Mayor of London has agreed plans worth over £1bn to deliver 11,000 badly needed council homes across London – and I'm also delighted that Tower Hamlets will be receiving £13m to support the delivery of 675 homes in our borough. We should also celebrate that this funding from the Mayor of London is getting Councils across London building Council Homes, a programme that we started in 2015.

Here in Tower Hamlets: we've delivered the highest numbers of affordable homes in the UK; we've got ambitious plans to provide 2,000 new council homes; and we're investing millions in temporary accommodation for the homeless.

The majority of our programme to deliver 2,000 new council homes is funded by the use of Right To Buy receipts and borrowing, and the Government's own rules about use of RTB receipts do not allow these receipts to be combined with GLA grant funding within the same property.

It is because of this that the Council only bid for GLA grant for a small proportion of our overall housing programme.

The GLA grant will be used to build 130 one-bedroom flats (making use of the maximum available £100,000 grant per property, combined with HRA borrowing).

The rest of the Council's programme will be funded by RTB receipts and further borrowing.

We continue to have one of the largest affordable housing outputs in London.