


Individual Mayoral Decision Proforma DRAFT Decision Log No: _____	 TOWER HAMLETS
Report of: Stephen Halsey, Interim Chief Executive	Classification: Unrestricted
Cancellation of Cabinet Approvals Regarding Disposal of Council Sites for Self-Build	

Is this a Key Decision?	Yes
Decision Notice Publication Date:	(Report author to state date of decision notice – either individual notice or within the Forward Plan)
General Exception or Urgency Notice published?	Yes (give details) / Not required (Report author to delete as applicable)
Restrictions:	N/A
Reason for seeking an Individual Mayoral Decision:	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> Local community-led housing groups need to be notified that the Council's Self-Build Programme will be cancelled. They are ready to sign grant and funding agreements and instruct further work. Therefore, the IMD is required to stop further work being undertaken by all parties that would increase the costs.

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The Mayor has reviewed the Council's previous decision to set up an Affordable Self-Build Programme ("the Programme") for affordable community-led self-build and to dispose of up to four small Council-owned sites for the purposes of enabling self-build by selected community groups.

Approval was granted by the Mayor in Cabinet on 21 September 2021, for sites at Lark Row E2, Christian St E1, Smythe St E14 and Pigott St E14 ("the Sites"), to each be disposed on a long lease for self-build, in accordance with the Self-Build Policy and Guidance ("the Policy") approved on 25 March 2020.

After due consideration of all the implications the Mayor has asked officers to halt the Programme, and instead to prioritise use of the Sites for the direct delivery of Council homes for rent, or to pursue alternative delivery routes that will maximise affordable / social rented units on the sites.

DECISION

The Mayor is recommended to:

1. Declare that the Sites are not surplus to requirements.
2. Cancel the following Mayoral / Cabinet approvals:
 - a. For an Affordable Self-Build Programme, made by the Mayor on 25 March 2020 (An executive decision was necessary due to Cabinet not meeting following the outbreak of Covid-19).
 - b. For the disposal on a long lease of four Council-owned sites (Lark Row E2, Christian St E1, Smythe St E14 and Pigott St E14), made by the Mayor in 21 September 2021, Cabinet, for Self-Build in accordance with the previously approved Self-Build Policy and Guidance.
3. Confirm the cancellation of the Programme in its current format, to avoid further abortive work by Council officers, the three community-led housing groups (Squeezed London, Platform Homes and RODE Housing) ("the Groups") and the advisory group (Community Led Housing London), noting this affects the following sites in order: Lark Row E2, Christian Street E1 and Pigott Street E14. Smythe Street was not marketed for disposal.
4. Authorise Council officers to hold discussions with the Groups, with grant funders (e.g. GLA), and the support agency (Community Led Housing London), to explain this decision to them; to explore the purchase of existing scheme designs; and to discuss and negotiate the reasonable costs incurred by the Groups to date.

APPROVALS

1. (If applicable) Chief Executive proposing the decision or his/her deputy

I approve the attached report and proposed decision above for submission to the Mayor. I confirm that the Mayor and/or Lead Member have agreed to this decision being taken using this process.

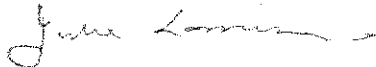


Signed ...

..... Date ...19.09.2023.....

2. Chief Finance Officer or his/her deputy

I have been consulted on the content of the attached report which includes my comments.

Signed 

Date 21/09/23

3. Monitoring Officer or his/her deputy

I have been consulted on the content of the attached report which includes my comments.

(For Key Decision only – delete as applicable)

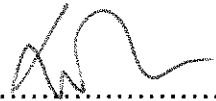
I confirm that this decision:-

- (a) has been published in advance on the Council's Forward Plan OR
- (b) is urgent and subject to the 'General Exception' or 'Special Urgency' provision at paragraph 18 or 19 respectively of the Access to Information Procedure Rules.

Signed Date 20/09/23

4. Mayor

I agree the decision proposed in the recommendations above for the reasons set out in paragraph **XX** in the attached report.

Signed  Date 22/09/23