

APPENDIX A – WRITTEN RESPONSE TO THE QUESTION THAT WAS NOT PUT AT THE FULL COUNCIL MEETING (23 JANUARY 2019)

9.6 Question from Councillor Puru Miah

Can the lead member for Place please confirm whether additional community and public engagement is taking place with regards to the recent planning application of the infill house building programme on the Locksley Estate in Mile End Ward (known as Locksley D).

Response from Cllr Rachel Blak, Deputy Mayor for Regeneration and Air Quality

Our Labour manifesto included a commitment to secure a further 1,000 council homes. We need to meet this commitment not least because our manifesto promised it, but also because our borough is badly in need of more council homes with around 19,000 people on our waiting lists.

In 2016, the Council published our Housing Strategy, which built on community consultation, and committed to developing new Council Homes and undertaking a capacity assessment of locations where new homes would be.

Consultation on the proposed development of Locksley D commenced in August 2015, with a series of drop-in consultation events to hear from local residents about what they wanted to see within a new development. Additional consultation events took place in January, March and May 2016, ahead of the first planning submission. In 2017, the design was amended and the height reduced. Local residents were informed of these design changes via newsletter, which included illustrations of the proposed development and were invited to comment.

Further amendments were made to the scheme during 2018 and local residents were advised of these design changes, again via newsletter. This was followed by an information day on 28th January 2019, where officers and the architects were available to answer questions and an estate visit where officers knocked on doors, spoke to residents and were able to answer their questions directly. The purpose of these events was to ensure the estate community were fully informed of the proposals.

I'd like to reassure residents that we have listened to concerns and a positive set of proposals will be put forward – with 17 much-needed new council homes.