

**COUNCIL MEETING**

20 February 2023

**MEMBER QUESTION 5**

(Pursuant to Council Procedure Rule 11.2)

Question to Councillor Byrne from Councillor Ganly

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**Question**

**ROTHER DC Housing Company Ltd**

A series of Freedom of Information requests were submitted and subsequent Members questions put to the Leader of the Council. There have been no satisfactory answers provided.

Since the inception of the Housing Company the need for external directors has never been disputed.

No External Directors have been appointed. Why not? When will they be appointed?

There is a desperate need for an up to date Business Plan for the Housing Company. When will the revised business plan for both the Company and the Blackfriars development be published for acceptance by the Full Council approval as per Articles of Association?

When will any revised plans for the House Building at Blackfriars be submitted to the Planning Committee?

What is the planned net profit for the Blackfriars development?

What is the maximum borrowing requirement for the construction costs of the Blackfriars Development?

**Answers**

The Council is currently supporting the Company to recruit non-Executive Directors for the Housing Company.

The Housing Company has an adopted business plan to deliver 1000 new homes by 2035 to include 200 units at Blackfriars, in accordance with the BP objectives.

We are aiming to submit revised plans to planning for the house building at Blackfriars by spring/summer of this year.

The main aim of this project is to deliver 200 new homes in Battle, unlocking a previously stalled housing site and delivering a significant number of affordable homes. While the Council is not actively seeking a return from the company, the priority for the Council is that the scheme breaks even.

The Council has approval to extend up to £80m to the Housing Company towards its adopted Business Plan objectives.