

**CABINET – 26 JANUARY 2017**  
**QUESTIONS FROM THE PUBLIC**

Agenda item 5 refers

**1. Mr Gary Roberts to Councillor Tony Durcan, Portfolio Holder for Regeneration and Enterprise**

Please could the council update me on the progress of the refurbishment/redevelopment of Prentice Place, Potter Street?

**Reply from Councillor Tony Durcan, Portfolio Holder for Regeneration and Enterprise**

In March 2016 the Council's Cabinet agreed that the regeneration of Prentice Place could proceed on the basis that an affordable option had been identified, this being a complete remodelling of the buildings and improvements to the public realm.

Following this decision, the Council was able to work up a design for the retail and residential properties and planning permission was granted in late 2016. The proposed scheme has 11 shops and 15 residential units.

There has been a great deal of consultation with the retailers and Harlow Health Centres Trust over the buildings elements of the proposal and with Essex County Council regarding the public realm improvements that are planned.

The Council anticipates tendering for the works in Spring 2017 and subject to the responses received to start work on site in August 2017.

**2. Mr Gary Roberts to Councillor Jon Clempner, Leader of the Council**

Council services are being brought back in house, to HTS (Property and Environment) Limited, in February which is excellent but as suggested at the Tenants and Leaseholders Conference has the Council considered putting a tenant, leaseholder and resident on the board of this in-house company?

**Reply from Councillor Jon Clempner, Leader of the Council**

I would like to be clear that the services currently being provided by Kier Harlow Ltd are not being brought back in house but are to be undertaken by a private limited company which is wholly owned by the Council. The options appraisal undertaken in 2015 recognised the significant progress in the modernisation of work processes, investment in training and culture change since 2007 resulting in significant efficiencies, innovations and productivity gains, and that in transferring the services to a local authority trading company would build upon the successful commercial approach to service provision.

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Therefore, it remains important that HTS (Property and Environment) Ltd continues to operate its management in the same commercial way and as such it would be inappropriate to consider the representation suggested. The representation and involvement of tenants, leaseholders and residents is important which is why the long established Standards Board/Panels and the Environmental Service Improvement Team will continue to consider the performance and delivery of services provided by HTS (Property and Environment) Ltd.