WRITTEN QUESTION TO THE MINISTER FOR HOUSING BY DEPUTY S.S.P.A. POWER OF ST. BRELADE ANSWER TO BE TABLED ON TUESDAY 4th FEBRUARY 2014

Question

Would the Minister advise the Assembly why a decision has been made for the Housing Department not to re-develop the former Ann Court site, when previous Ministers for Housing were given an assurance that the site would be returned for development of housing in return for co-operation with the works associated with the Philip Street shaft, clearance and demolition of the site and the provision of temporary replacement parking for the Millennium park project?

Answer

The site is being made available for the development of social housing once its temporary use as public car parking comes to an end in January 2015. I had to consider which organisation was best placed to deliver what will be a very significant scheme of social housing and which it is presently proposed will include 200 public car parking spaces. As Members are aware the Housing Department will become Andium Homes on 1st July 2014 and already has a significant programme which includes the construction of 899 new homes. I was cognisant of the fact that the Jersey Homes Trust had an appetite to develop new homes and had as at 31st December 2012 accumulated a cash balance of £12m which will have increased throughout 2013. This could be augmented with private finance to entirely fund the scheme without any recourse to the public. This will ensure that the new homes, 200 spaces of public car parking and parking for residents are delivered as quickly as possible. This will be a significant benefit to businesses and residents in the North of Town over and above the benefits that they will see from having proper flood alleviation measures.