



## MEMORANDUM: LORD MAYOR DEPUTY LORD MAYOR ELECTED MEMBERS

## PROPERTY SALES AND ACQUISITION

Meeting: City Planning Committee

Meeting date: 15 November 2021

Raised by: Councillor Coats

## Question:

Can the Director advise if the Council does any community education around the buying and selling of properties within the real estate market and the particular requirements set out in the various planning, development and heritage codes. Do we engage at all with the real estate industry?

## **Response:**

It is not uncommon for real estate agents to reach out to our planning team if there is a property which has a particular issue which the agent anticipates that the market will want to understand. For example, we were contacted by a real estate agent about the sale of a church hall and we provided advice regarding the possible conversion of the hall for residential purposes, so that he could properly advise potential purchasers.

Usually, real estate agents are content to say that possible changes to a property are "subject to Council approval" and leave potential purchasers to make their own enquiries with our duty planner. This ensures that accurate and complete advice is provided by the Council, rather than generic advice from real estate agents which may not be reliable in the circumstances.

In addition, purchasers will usually request a pre-purchase report from the Council pursuant to section 337 of the *Local Government Act 1993*. This is an accurate list of controls and restrictions which apply to the property.

As signatory to this report, I certify that, pursuant to Section 55(1) of the Local Government Act 1993, I hold no interest, as referred to in Section 49 of the Local Government Act 1993, in matters contained in this report.

Nay

Neil Noye DIRECTOR CITY PLANNING

 Date:
 7 December 2021

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 F21/117046; 13-1-10