

QUESTION NO 10

**By Councillor Whyte for answer by
the Convener of the Housing,
Homelessness and Fair Work
Committee at a meeting of the
Council on 12 March 2020**

Social and Affordable Homes Project - 1 Linksvie House,
26 Tolbooth Wynd and associated areas at Kirkgate, Giles
Street and Coatfield Lane, Leith

Question **(1)** Can the Convener explain, given coalition Commitment 1 to
“Deliver a programme to build at least 10,000 social and
affordable homes over the next 5 years” why the above
project has stalled with a number of Council properties lying
empty for a number of years?

Answer **(1)**

Question

- (2)** What impact does this failure to deliver by the Council on a site in its ownership and control have on the Commitment and on the Council's ability to provide tenancies to reduce homelessness through a Housing First approach or other means?

The following information may assist the Convener in assessing progress to date on this matter:

- A project team was formed to consider the options for the area and undertake consultation in 2014;
- Twelve of the Council owned properties have been empty since at least late 2015;
- Approval to redevelop and end tenancies and garage leases was agreed at her Committee's predecessor Committee in January 2016;
- The business bulletin to Committee on 2 November 2017 expected commencement on site in 2019:
- A planning application was lodged by the Council's agents on 28 September 2018 with an expected determination date of 27 November 2018 but this remains outstanding seventeen months later;
- The properties remain empty, are deteriorating and rather than improving the area leave it blighted with what resembles an abandoned site.

Answer

(2)