

**Councillors' Questions
(Standing Order 15)
Full Council
22nd February 2018**

Councillor Abdul Amin has asked the Cabinet Member for Housing and Public Safety:

- 1) Having completed the Sussex Place Redevelopment almost a year ago there seems to a number of houses still remains unoccupied, Can the Cabinet Member for Housing and Public Safety please let me know the reason for these houses to be unoccupied and if they are available to rent whether they are offered on social rent or affordable rent?

The Cabinet Member has responded:

Thank you for your question.

- 1) These homes were originally planned to be sold outright on the open market, but the success of the regeneration scheme values meant that the Council could explore the opportunity to sell them as shared ownership properties whilst still returning a satisfactory capital receipt to the Housing Revenue Account.

This is good news in offering greater tenure diversity and good news for local people to have the opportunity to enter the housing market at a discounted rate. Officers have looked at a number of options, however due to the legal complexities of the Council selling this type of product for the first time, it has taken considerably longer than expected to agree terms of sale. It is expected to have the properties advertised in March. Persevering with this new council offer of affordable housing will mean it can now be quickly replicated on the future regeneration schemes.