

## QUESTION BY MEMBER OF THE PUBLIC



**Question submitted by:** Mrs Lois Lloyd BSc (Hons)

**To the Cabinet Member or Chair for:** Councillor Richard Bingley (The Leader of the Council)

**To be asked at the next (Council, Cabinet or Planning Committee) Meeting:** Council

**Date:** 27 March 2023

**Question (to be no longer than 50 words):** Plymouth's reputation has been irreparably damaged worldwide by shocking Armada Way tree mismanagement, which inexplicably avoided formal Planning Application scrutiny, transparent equitable consultation accessibility and clear public information site signage. Are urgent governance improvements planned to prevent a repetition of exposing councillors and uninvolved planning officers to public outrage?

**Will you be attending the meeting in person to ask your question?** Yes

**Response:** (for completion by City Council officers and Cabinet Members / Chairs)

Thank you for your question. I read this on behalf of Councillor Bingley.

It is clear that the national coverage of the Armada Way scheme has been skewed by a lack of appreciation of the wider sustainability and regeneration benefits of this project.

However, I must emphasise again that improvements to the tired public realm of the city centre has been a longstanding policy commitment of this Council under both Labour and Conservative Administrations. Consultations have taken place in 2018, 2022 and 2023 and as Leader, I inherited a design approach and the fact that it had already been confirmed that planning permission was not required for the scheme.

I remain of the view that this was the right thing to do and that the final scheme I agreed will result in a wonderful tree-lined zone whereby businesses and cafes and people feel safe. In time I am sure it will be appreciated as a vibrant piece of city centre regeneration.

As required by the resolution of the City Council on 30<sup>th</sup> January 2023, we have conducted a thorough review of the consultation and engagement on the Armada Way project, which has been published on our web site and we will be working with key partners to implement the recommendations of that review.

