

EXETER BOARD

OPEN FORUM

15 JANUARY 2015

QUESTION FROM JOHN MURPHY

Exeter City Council's repair project for damp council flats

At the Exeter *Open Forum* meeting for the public, on 15 January, I would like to ask about the long-awaited repairs project to deal with damp in 350 council flats.

1. Has the city council let a contract to rectify the problems of damp in 350 council flats?
2. If so, who is the contractor, what is the value of the contract and when will the work start? If not let why not and when will you let the contract? If let, who were the other firms tendering for the work? What was the criteria used to determine the winning bid? What factors are being used to determine the priority of flats to be rectified?
3. Will the city council compensate residents for the cost of electricity to run their de-humidifiers to deal with the damp problem? Will the council redecorate the flats affected by the damp problem? When will this work take place?
4. What communication plan does the city council have to keep residents of the affected flats informed of progress on the project to implement remedial action? Is this plan available to the public?
5. Why was scaffolding left erected at one block of flats in Calthorpe Road for three months when no work was taking place?

ANSWER

1. No, the contract is currently out to tender. We anticipate awarding the contract in early March with a contract start date of April.
2. We are not in a position to provide some of this information for the reasons set out above, while other information in respect of competing tenders would in any case be commercially confidential. Prioritisation of works will be agreed with the successful contractor.
3. We will look at each situation on its merits as dehumidifiers may not be the most appropriate solution in all cases. We will redecorate as necessary as soon as all works have been carried out.
4. We have written to all residents confirming budgets for the work have been approved and will contact them again once the contract has been let and an agreed programme of work is in place.
5. The scaffolding was erected by a roofing contractor and works have been carried out. The works were completed before Xmas and the contractor has been asked to remove the scaffolding.