



Homes England

Date: 21 December 2023

Our Ref: RFI4553

Tel: 0300 1234 500

Email: infogov@homesengland.gov.uk

[REDACTED]
By Email Only

Dear [REDACTED]

RE: Request for Information – RFI4553

Thank you for your request for information which was processed in accordance with the Freedom of Information Act 2000 (FOIA).

You requested the following information:

I understand the £10 million pounds previously awarded (2019) for the initial infrastructure for the proposed 'Godley Green Garden Village' is no longer going ahead, but have been unable to find any further information.

Response

We can inform you that we do hold information relating to the Godley Green Garden Village and the future for the site. However, we rely on section 22, exemption where information is intended for future publication under the FOIA.

The full text of the legislation can be found on the following link and we have quoted section 22 below for ease.

<https://www.legislation.gov.uk/ukpga/2000/36/section/22>

Section 22 - Information intended for future publication.

(1) Information is exempt information if:

- (a) the information is held by the public authority with a view to its publication, by the authority or any other person, at some future date (whether determined or not),





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- (b) the information was already held with a view to such publication at the time when the request for information was made, and
- (c) it is reasonable in all the circumstances that the information should be withheld from disclosure until the date referred to in paragraph (a).

(2) The duty to confirm or deny does not arise if, or to the extent that, compliance with section 1(1)(a) would involve the disclosure of any information (whether or not already recorded) which falls within subsection (1).

Section 22 is a qualified exemption. This means that in order to withhold information under this exemption, we must consider the public interest in disclosure.

Public Interest Test – Factors in favour of disclosure

- Homes England is compliant with the government agenda of transparency and recognises the benefit of publishing the information, particularly when it concerns how Homes England undertakes its work.

Public Interest Test – Factors in favour of non-disclosure

- The information in scope will be included for consideration in Tameside Metropolitan Borough council's forthcoming Speakers Panel meeting. A subsequent press release will be made available on the council's website. We understand the meeting will take place before the end of 2023. To disclose the information before the council have concluded their considerations would be likely to prejudice the result of the project and the consultation process which is a democratic and established procedure. Release of information under the FOIA is considered to 'the world at large' and interested parties could use the information in the statement to lobby or disrupt the required process. There is an established (public) procedure and consultation in relation to planning applications and to release information outside of this process would not be in the public interest. The information should only be published as part of the proper procedure and in the format required as part of this procedure once validated by the council.

Therefore, after careful consideration we have concluded that at this time, the balance of the public interest favours the non-disclosure.





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Advice and Assistance

In compliance with the Section 45 Code of Practice (Paragraph 14) and to offer advice and assistance under section 16 of the FOIA we can confirm that the Council's press release information will be made available here:

<https://public.tameside.gov.uk/pressreleases/>

You can also find contact information for the Council's press release team on the same link.

Right to Appeal

If you are not happy with the information that has been provided or the way in which your request has been handled, you may request an internal review. You can request an internal review by writing to Homes England via the details below, quoting the reference number at the top of this letter.

Email: infogov@homesengland.gov.uk

Information Governance Team

Homes England

Windsor House

6th Floor

42-50 Victoria Street

London

SW1H 0TL

United Kingdom

Your request for review must be made in writing, explain why you wish to appeal, and be received within 40 working days of the date of this response. Failure to meet this criteria may lead to your request being refused.

Upon receipt, your request for review will be passed to an independent party not involved in your original request. We aim to issue a response within 20 working days.





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You may also complain to the Information Commissioner's Office (ICO) however, the Information Commissioner does usually expect the internal review procedure to be exhausted in the first instance.

The Information Commissioner's details can be found via the following link:

<https://ico.org.uk/>

Please note that the contents of your request and this response are also subject to the Freedom of Information Act 2000. Homes England may be required to disclose your request and our response accordingly.

Yours sincerely,

The Information Governance Team
For Homes England

