

**Economy and Growth Select Committee
6 February 2019**

Question:

'The Council has appointed Lambert Smith Hampton as consultants to deliver a masterplan and business case in line with the successful Future High Street Fund application.

'It is our understanding that Lambert Smith Hampton are in a commercial relationship with the owners or lessees of The Springs Centre. Can you please confirm whether or not any such relationship exists, or has done in the recent past. If you do not know, would you please find out. The Springs Centre (or those with a financial stake in its commercial success) may stand to benefit directly and/or indirectly from implementation of the masterplan and investment of public monies; thus the decisions of the Council should be - and be seen to be - without potential for undue influence from any single stakeholder in the Spring Gardens action zone. If there is in fact the relationship that is suggested, can you please also explain how the Council can and will demonstrate an absence of any opportunity for partiality in carrying out the task delegated to Lambert Smith Hampton?'

Cllr Tony Kemp

Cllr Tony Ashton

Cllr Emily Thrane