

Formal Council Questions and Responses

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1 Question to the Leader of the Council : 2021/3- Debenhams in Friars Walk

Councillor Fouweather asked:

Can the Leader tell me if either she or any cabinet member or any officer have been in negotiations with any major high street chain to take over the soon to be vacant Debenhams store at Friars Walk .

The Leader of the Council responded:

Friar's Walk is in private ownership and whilst we seek to support all of our City Centre businesses in partnership with Newport Now, we have not been directly involved in any negotiations on potential lettings within this development. The future success of the City Centre is, however, much greater than one individual building or operator.

We continue to work in partnership with all stakeholders in the city centre, including the Newport Now Business Improvement District, exploring opportunities to make the City Centre a vibrant and viable place for people to live, visit and work.

We are also working very closely with other cities in South Wales who are in a similar position to Newport. I, alongside the Leaders of Cardiff, Newport and Swansea City Councils, have recently sent a joint letter to Welsh Government seeking urgent dialogue to enable further support and investment for our key welsh cities.