

Committee(s): Barbican Residential Estate Consultation Committee (For Discussion) Barbican Residential Committee (For Decision)	Dated: 26 January 2026 16 February 2026
Subject: Procurement Review	Public
This proposal: • provides statutory duties	Procurement Review
If so, how much?	N/A
Has this Funding Source been agreed with the Chamberlain's Department?	N/A
Report of: The Executive Director of Community & Children's Services	For Discussion
Report author: Daniel Sanders – Director of Property & Estate Management	

Summary

To update Members on the procurement of reactive repairs contracts, address resident concerns regarding the procurement process, and seek approval to commission an independent external review of the procurement, including the proposed approach to funding and resident involvement.

Recommendation

The Barbican Residential Committee is invited to approve the commissioning of an independent external review of the reactive repair's procurement process, with an indicative budget of up to £10,000, in line with the terms set out in this report.

Main Report

1. In 2025, the City of London Corporation undertook a formal procurement exercise for three lots relating to repairs and maintenance services: Lot 1 (Reactive Repairs – Housing), Lot 2 (Reactive Repairs – Barbican), and Lot 3 (Waterproofing). Lots 1 and 2 were awarded to Chigwell following completion of the procurement process.
2. After a short period on contract, Chigwell withdrew from the arrangements at the Barbican, citing financial reasons. The Estate Office accepted the contractor's resignation and has since moved to bring reactive repairs services back in-house.

3. Concerns have been raised by some residents that the procurement process may have failed. The City of London Corporation does not agree with this assessment.
4. The procurement was carried out in line with legal and governance requirements, with oversight and involvement from external quantity surveyors, internal procurement specialists, and the Corporation's legal services. At this stage, there is no evidence to suggest that the procurement process was fundamentally flawed or negligently undertaken.
5. Notwithstanding this position, the City recognises the strength of resident concern and, in the interests of transparency and maintaining confidence, is prepared to commission an independent external review of the procurement process. The purpose of the review would be to provide assurance that the procurement was conducted appropriately and in accordance with relevant legal and professional standards.
6. As the City's position remains that the procurement was compliant, the cost of commissioning an external review would initially be treated as a service charge cost. However, should the review conclude that the City failed in its duties or was negligent in its procurement approach, the City would reimburse the associated service charge costs in full.
7. It is anticipated that the cost of commissioning a full independent review would be up to £10,000. Subject to approval, officers would proceed to procure the review in accordance with the City of London Corporation's Procurement Code. Work with residents will be undertaken throughout this process to support confidence in the independence and robustness of the review.

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