Lord Mayor, my question is one for your opinion or perspective.

Last month the residents of Southbank were left bewildered when a controversial development application came to this forum from Central Equity for a development on the corner of City Road and Balston St, across from Boyd Community hub.

We were counting on Councilors in this forum to consider the planning application and make the appropriate recommendation to the responsible authority.

However we, the residents, seemed to have been robbed of that privilege when the quorum was lost through a number of Councilors leaving the meeting owing to a conflict of interest.

We all know how it happened and that Councilors were operating within the confines of the Local Government Act, but as Lord Mayor what is your opinion about such circumstances when essentially the very Councilors that are elected by the people to represent their community are unable to execute their responsibilities through compromising themselves. Which I must add, has the potential to incapacitate Council for any decisions where Central Equity is involved, in the example of merely this developer, Goodness knows how many more potential scenarios there could be.

I note later in the Agenda, item 6.4 Homes for People Housing Strategy that there is a submission by Central Equity. Would this too mean we should be expecting those same Councilors to be walking out for that Agenda item? And if not, why not? What makes it different?