

Cabinet
29 JUNE 2017

Present: Councillors: Ray Dawe (Leader), Philip Circus, Brian Donnelly, Gordon Lindsay, Kate Rowbottom, Claire Vickers and Tricia Youtan

Apologies: Councillors: Jonathan Chowen

Also Present: Councillors: Leonard Crosbie, Billy Greening, Nigel Jupp, Christian Mitchell and Stuart Ritchie

EX/13 **MINUTES**

The minutes of the meeting of the Cabinet held on 25th May 2017 were approved as a correct record and signed by the Leader.

EX/14 **DECLARATIONS OF MEMBERS' INTERESTS**

There were no declarations of interest.

EX/15 **ANNOUNCEMENTS**

There were no announcements.

EX/16 **PUBLIC QUESTIONS**

No questions had been received.

EX/17 **FORWARD PLAN**

The Forward Plan was noted.

EX/18 **TO CONSIDER MATTERS OF SPECIAL URGENCY**

There were no matters of urgency to be considered.

EX/19 **EXCLUSION OF THE PRESS AND PUBLIC**

RESOLVED

That, under Regulation 21(1)(b) of the Local Authorities (Executive Arrangements)(Access to Information) (England) Regulations 2000, the press and public be excluded from the meeting for the following items of business on the grounds that they involve the likely disclosure of exempt information as defined in Part I of Schedule 12A to the Local

Government Act 1972 by virtue of paragraph 3 and, in all the circumstances of the case, the public interest in maintaining the exemption outweighs the public interest in disclosing the information.

EX/20 **ACQUISITION OF A COMMERCIAL PROPERTY AND APPROVAL OF A LOAN FACILITY**

The Leader reported on the proposed acquisition of a commercial property in Horsham town centre for investment purposes.

In September 2015, the Council had allocated capital for the purpose of acquiring commercial investment properties as they arose from time to time in the District provided they would achieve a 6% yield. The purchase currently proposed was of a much higher value than other recent acquisitions and details of the rationale for acquiring the property were reported.

The Treasury Management Strategy approved in February 2017 had anticipated additional property investment of £3,000,000 per annum over the full five-year term of the Medium Term Financial Strategy. However, the proposed purchase would exceed this and Council would need to be requested to approve a supplementary capital budget to enable the acquisition to proceed.

The sale of other Council assets that produced a low or no income would contribute towards offsetting any borrowing from internal or external resources.

The Cabinet Advisory Sub-Committee (Property Investment) had considered and supported the proposed property investment purchase. In addition, a briefing had been held on 21st June 2017 to which all Members had been invited.

RESOLVED

That the proposed purchase of the identified investment property be approved and that the Director of Planning, Economic Development and Property be authorised to complete the purchase, subject to satisfactory due diligence.

RECOMMENDED TO COUNCIL

That a supplementary capital budget of £15,000,000 be approved to enable the purchase to proceed.

REASON

To enable the Council to expand its commercial investment portfolio in order to continue to build a revenue stream to support the Council's general activities and to approve the supplementary budget required for this purpose.

The meeting closed at 6.08 pm having commenced at 5.30 pm

CHAIRMAN