

Cabinet

Monday, 5 October 2020

7.30 pm

Present:

Cllr John Burden (Chair)
Cllr Lee Croxton (Vice-Chair)

Councillors: Shane Mochrie-Cox
Lenny Rolles
Brian Sangha
Narinderjit Singh Thandi
Jenny Wallace

Stuart Bobby Chief Executive
Nick Brown Director (Housing & Operations)
Kevin Burbidge Director (Planning & Development)
Jan Guyler Head of Legal Services (Medway Council)
Melanie Norris Director (Communities)
Sarah Parfitt Director (Corporate Services)
Dave Herrington Digital Services Manager
Lauren Wallis Committee Services Officer (minutes)

32. Apologies for absence

The Chair tendered an apology on behalf of Cllr Lenny Rolles, who had experienced connectivity issues, for his absence at the start of the meeting.

33. To sign the minutes of the previous meeting

The minutes of the meeting held on 7 September 2020 were signed by the Chair.

34. To declare any interest members may have in the items contained on this agenda. When declaring an interest a member must state what their interest is.

No declarations of interest were made.

35. Delegated Decisions - Cabinet Members

The Leader reported that he had taken a delegated decision to purchase a property at 147 Wrotham Road, Gravesend, Kent DA11 0QL.

The Portfolio Holder for Community & Leisure advised that "A Creative Gravesham – An Arts and Culture Strategy 2020-2025" and "The Modern Slavery Strategy" had been approved at

the meeting of the Community & Leisure Cabinet Committee on 15 September 2020 and the requisite paperwork would be published on the website shortly.

The Portfolio Holder for Strategic Environment reported that he had approved the S18 Stage 2 consultation of the Local Plan under his delegated powers.

36. Former Police Station Site, Windmill Street - Possible Compulsory Purchase Order Requirement

The Director (Planning & Development) introduced the report and advised that it was somewhat similar to the report that had been submitted to the last meeting of Cabinet with regard to the Canal Basin area (Albion Waterside). The report asked for the authority in principal for the making of a Compulsory Purchase Order in relation to the Former Police Station Site, Windmill Street, Gravesend. Members were advised that contracts were believed to have been exchanged for the acquisition of this site, yet to be corroborated by the Official Receiver. The request for the Compulsory Purchase Order had come about due to the fact that the site had been vacant for sometime and had become an eyesore. Formal and informal proposals had been considered with permissions granted and further conditional resolutions to grant permission made, but with no further progress. An Order was felt to be the correct tool to effect the progression of the development of the site if the current purchaser failed to deliver the development in a timely manner.

The Chair noted that he felt that this was a very positive way forward as the development of the site had been awaited for a number of years and it was right that the Council should take the lead.

Following a question from the Portfolio Holder for Strategic Environment, the Director (Planning & Development) confirmed that this decision would be held in reserve should negotiations on the development of the site progress. Cabinet was advised that there was a buyer interested in the site but no direct contact had yet been made with the Council's planning department. Therefore, the Council was not aware if the buyer was interested in delivering a scheme in line with the previous planning permission granted on the site or would wish to look at an alternative scheme which would eventually be submitted to the Planning Committee for consideration.

Resolved that authorisation be delegated to the Chief Executive, in consultation with the Leader of the Executive and others officers as appropriate, to progress the making of a Compulsory Purchase Order for the land as outlined in red on the plan attached at Appendix 2 of the report, in the event that the new owner of the site does not progress development of the site within a reasonable period of time.

Close of meeting

The meeting ended at 7.43 pm