

DELEGATED DECISIONS OF THE BOARD MEMBER, FINANCE AND EFFICIENCY

Thursday 29 March 2012

COUNCILLORS PRESENT: Councillor Turner.

OFFICERS PRESENT: William Reed (Law and Governance) and Richard Hawkes (Corporate Asset Manager)

48. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

Councillor McCready attended to ask a question (minute 50 refers). Councillor McCready declared a personal prejudicial interest in the subject of the meeting (minute 51 refers) because he lived in a property on the Sunnymead estate that was subject to a covenant in favour of the Council (Section 11 of Appendix 3 to the report refers). After Councillor McCready asked his question and received a reply he left the meeting and took no further part in it.

49. PUBLIC ADDRESSES

Mr Mark Pitt submitted a question to the Board Member which, although received after the deadline for public questions, the Board Member agreed to take. Mr Pitt did not attend the meeting. Mr Pitt's question, in summary, concerned the retention of ownership and safeguarding of the barn at Bury Knowle Park (and other assets, for example Cheney Barn) that should be put to community use either by the Council or, if disposed of, by the acquiring organisation.

The Board Member replied by saying that Mr Pitt's comments would be considered when all comments as a result of the consultation were considered.

50. COUNCILLOR ADDRESSES

Councillor McCready asked a question of the Board Member concerning covenants imposed by the Council. He referred in this regard to Section 11 of Appendix 3 to the Plan and to recommendation 16 of the scrutiny panel's recommendations. Councillor McCready elaborated on his question but, as submitted, it read as follows:-

"Recommendation 16 of the Value and Performance Scrutiny Committee's panel on the Asset Management Plan 2011-14 proposes that the City's enforcement of covenants should be proportional. Do you consider that it would make the policy clearer if it stated to what the enforcement should be proportional, such that paragraph 11.2 of appendix 3 read: In relation to covenants the Council has imposed, it will enforce such covenants where it is reasonable to do so, and, where the Council grants a release or partial release from a covenant, it will charge a reasonable payment proportionate to the administrative burden of issuing the release and proportionate to any injury the Council may suffer to its legitimate interests as a result of actions made permissible by the release." "

The Board Member replied by saying that he had some sympathy with Councillor McCready's points and that they would be considered when all comments as a result of the consultation were considered.

Councillor McCready then left the meeting.

51. ASSET MANAGEMENT PLAN - CONSULTATION

The Head of Corporate Assets submitted a report (previously circulated, now appended). The Value and Performance Scrutiny Committee also submitted a report and so did Councillors Fooks and Van Nooijen who, as a panel had considered the Asset Management consultation draft in detail.

Resolved:-

- (1) To approve the Asset Management Consultation draft 2011-14 for consultation subject to the typographical corrections and other matters set out in paragraph 19 of the scrutiny panel's report:
- (2) Not to agree the recommendation in paragraph 1 of the scrutiny panel's report because the retrospective discussion of previous years achievements was not felt to affect clarity;
- (3) To defer consideration of the scrutiny panel's remaining recommendations and to consider them with all other comments after the consultation period had ended, and to note that the two panel members would meet with the Head of Corporate Assets to go through the recommendations;
- (4) On the Scrutiny Committee's recommendations:-
 - (a) That recommendation 1 be agreed and the change be made to the consultation draft before it was issued for consultation;
 - (b) On recommendation 2, that during the consultation period the Head of Corporate Assets should consider appropriate targets;
- (5) To note that the consultation period would last about three months.

The meeting started at 5.00 pm and ended at 5.26 pm