

Law & Governance

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Date: 25 November 2021

Dear Councillor Wade, Chair of Scrutiny Committee,

I am writing to you on behalf of the Head of Law and Governance to notify you of the proposed taking of a key decision delegated to officers which has been added to the Council's Forward Plan today titled "Barton - Acquisition of Affordable Property". The key decision to be taken concerns the agreement to acquire 84 affordable homes from Redrow Housing at Phase 3, Barton Park.

Key decisions are executive decisions with a financial impact of >£500k or a significant impact on communities in 2+ wards. Key decisions are normally required to be notified on the Forward Plan for 28 days before being taken but the law and the Council's Constitution (Part 15.17) provide for a "general exemption" whereby a key decision can be taken 5 clear days after being added to the Forward Plan and the Chair of the Scrutiny Committee being notified. Officers propose to take the key decision to acquire the units on Friday 3 December 2021 in accordance with these provisions. The decision will then be subject to call in by members within 2 working days, before it can be implemented.

The background to the decision is that the City Executive Board on 10 July 2013 agreed to purchase all of the affordable (social rented) housing at the Barton Park development and to delegate authority to officers to give effect to this matter. It was subsequently agreed by the City Executive Board on 17 March 2016 that a wholly owned housing company would be established and would acquire the affordable housing from the Council. That remains the intention and the decision to be taken by the Executive Director of Communities and People on 3 December will cover both the acquisition of affordable units from Redrow Housing and the transfer of those units to Oxford City Housing Limited (OCHL) in a back-to-back transfer. The authority to sell the units to OCHL flows from a Cabinet resolution of 29 May 2019 which has been retained on Forward Plan and this decision will also be subject to call in.

Please note that a copy of this letter will be attached to the public notice of this key decision.

Kind regards,

Andrew Brown
Committee and Member Services Manager

