

## **LEADER**

A record of decisions made by the Executive Cabinet Member with responsibility for Strategy, External Relations, Strategic Budget, Public Service Reform, Partnerships with Public, Private and Voluntary Sectors at a Strategic Level, Corporate Support Services, Financial Services and Budget Development, Registration Services and the Coroner's Service:-

### **WEDNESDAY, 21ST DECEMBER, 2022**

Following consideration of the matters detailed below in the presence of:-

- |                   |                                     |
|-------------------|-------------------------------------|
| Councillor Cox    | - Executive Cabinet Member – Leader |
| Councillor Grant  | - Minor Opposition Spokesperson     |
| Councillor Heslop | - Minor Opposition Spokesperson     |

#### **Officers**

- |                    |  |
|--------------------|--|
| Mr. A. Williamson  | - Assistant Director - Transformation                      |
| Mr. P. Whittingham | - Assistant Director Economic Development and Regeneration |
| Ms. J. Pollard     | - Head of Finance – Chief Executive's and Place            |
| Mr. P. Mulroney    | - Client Services Manager                                  |
| Mr. J. Cooper      | - Head of Corporate Property                               |
| Mrs. V. Ridge      | - Democratic Services Manager                              |

## **27. PADERBORN CORONER'S COURT AND ASSOCIATED MOVES – UPDATED COSTS**

The Director of Corporate Resources submitted a report which provided an update on the increased costs and associated delays in relation to the Coroner's expansion to three Court rooms and sought approval to amend the layout to move the offices to the second floor for operational purposes.

The report advised that since the original costs had been identified, the scope of works had evolved with the courtrooms and office space being altered to ensure they worked from an operational perspective. Subsequently, the costs had extended beyond the approved budget and the opening of the third court room had been delayed.

In this regard, the report provided details of the revised costs and sought approval to fund the Bolton element of the project in the sum of £297,869.90 using Corporate Reserves. This was an increase of £62,234 from the original proposal.

### **The Executive Cabinet Member APPROVED -**

- (i) The authorisation of the Assistant Director Transformation to continue with the development at the revised costs now detailed; and**
- (ii) The use of Corporate Reserves to fund the third Coroner's Court, on the basis detailed in the report now submitted.**

### **CONFIDENTIAL ITEM**

The background papers and report in relation to the following item were considered confidential as defined in paragraph 3 of Schedule 12A of the Local Government Act 1972 and that it be deemed that, in all the circumstances of the case, the public interest in their exemption outweighs the public interest in their disclosure.

## **28. BOLTON CENTRAL BUILDING**

## CC3

The Director of Corporate Resources submitted a report which put forward various options relating to the future of the Bolton Central office building.

The report outlined how the building had been utilised over recent years and provided details of its current lease to the University of Bolton.

The report also identified various legal and construction issues associated with the building that would need to be undertaken if the Council were to retain the building or dispose of it in the future.

In this regard, the report put forward the following options for its future use:

- Option 1 – retain the building;
- Option 2 – retain the building and undertake the steps identified;
- Option 3 – undertake the steps required and dispose of the building.

The report provided an analysis of each option and recommended that Option 2 would be the most appropriate course of action. The Council would continue to receive an income stream from the University Lease but would need to incur some costs in dealing with the next steps outlined in the report. It would also place the Council in an advantageous position with regards to any future disposal.

### **The Executive Cabinet Member Leader APPROVED-**

- (i) Option 2, on the basis detailed in the report now submitted;**
- (ii) The authorisation of the Assistant Director, Transformation to negotiate and finalise the outstanding agreements and documents associated with Option 2, on the basis referred to in the report now submitted;**

- (iii) The authorisation of the Assistant Director, Transformation, in consultation with the Chief Executive and the Borough Solicitor, to negotiate and finalise the agreements required with PSP Bolton LLP associated with Option 2 on the basis detailed in the report now submitted;**
- (iv) The authorisation of the Chief Executive to make budgetary provision from within existing resources to meet the liabilities associated with Option 2 on the basis detailed in the report now submitted; and**
- (v) The authorisation of the Borough Solicitor to complete the necessary legal formalities in this regard.**