

## **DEPUTY LEADER**

A record of decisions made by the Executive Cabinet Member with responsibility for the Deputy Leader's Portfolio:-

**MONDAY 23<sup>rd</sup> SEPTEMBER, 2019**

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

- |                      |  |
|----------------------|--|
| Councillor Cox       | - Executive Cabinet Member – Deputy Leader's Portfolio |
| Councillor Silvester | - Major Opposition Spokesperson                        |
| Councillor Wilkinson | - Minor Opposition Spokesperson                        |
| Councillor Hornby    | - Minor Opposition Spokesperson                        |
| Councillor Sanders   | - Minor Opposition Spokesperson                        |
| Councillor Wright    | - Minor Opposition Spokesperson                        |

### **Officers**

- |                |  |
|----------------|--|
| Mr. G. Brough  | - Director of Place  |
| Mr. J. Hundal  | - Interim Assistant Director<br>Economic Development and<br>Regeneration |
| Ms. H. Gorman  | - Borough Solicitor  |
| Ms. J. Duxbury | - Estates and Property<br>Development Manager (Town<br>Centres)          |
| Ms. J. Pollard | - Head of Strategic Finance and<br>Accountancy                           |
| Mrs. V. Ridge  | - Democratic Services Manager  |

## **16. MONITORING OF EXECUTIVE CABINET MEMBER DECISIONS**

The Borough Solicitor submitted a report which provided an update on decisions taken at previous meetings of the Executive Cabinet Member.

**The Executive Cabinet Member NOTED the report.**

## **17. LAND AT SINGLETON AVENUE, HORWICH**

The Director of Place submitted a report which sought the Executive Cabinet Member's approval to proceed with the disposal of land at Singleton Avenue, Horwich.

By way of background, the Executive Cabinet Member was reminded that on 15<sup>th</sup> January, 2019 a report was presented to the Executive Cabinet Member Deputy Leaders Portfolio which detailed a proposal to dispose of land at Singleton Avenue, Horwich to a Bolton Community Homes Registered Provider Partner for the purpose of delivering 48 housing units, 40 by way of affordable rent and 8 by way of shared ownership. It was explained that the land identified was recognised as Public Open Space and that any potential loss must be advertised in accordance with section 123(2A) of the Local Government Act 1972.

Consequently, on 9<sup>th</sup> July, 2019 a report was presented to this meeting which provided an update regarding the outcome of the Public Open Space advertisements and the recommendations to consider and reject the representations received; to approve the disposal of Council owned land; and to authorise the Borough Solicitor to complete all the legal formalities were accepted. However, this decision was called in to the Place Scrutiny Committee on 1<sup>st</sup> August, 2019 and at this meeting it was agreed that the decision should be referred to Council. At the meeting of Council on 21<sup>st</sup> August, 2019 it was agreed that the decision made on 9<sup>th</sup> July, 2019 be referred back to the Executive Cabinet Member with the following comment 'That the Executive Cabinet Member Deputy Leader should resolve not to sell the land but retain it as open green space for the continuing benefit of residents in Horwich'.

The Executive Cabinet Member was advised that following advertisement of the land for disposal the Council had received 456 objections and these were summarised in the report. It was stated that 102 referenced title issues and detailing that the land was gifted to the people of Horwich or that the land had the protection of a covenant restricting the use of the land. In view of this, Legal Services had been consulted to advise on any title constraints and the advice received was that there was nothing to hinder the disposal of land for the purposes identified. Since this time the advice had been revisited and it had again been confirmed that the title to the land was unconstrained.

The report also stated that many representations were based on loss of green/recreational space, environmental concerns, over development of Horwich for housing, traffic, environmental concerns and detrimental impact on health and wellbeing. The Executive Cabinet Member was advised that the representations could be considered in the context of that the proposal would increase the supply of suitable affordable housing, contributing to the improvement of social wellbeing within the Borough in line with strategic priorities identified in Bolton's Community Strategy, the Bolton Plan and Bolton's Housing Strategy. It was also pointed out that the site had been allocated for housing in the Council's Allocation Plan which was adopted by the Council on 3<sup>rd</sup> December, 2014 and representations against the use of the land for housing would have been considered as part of the consultation process for the Allocations Plan and were not relevant to this disposal.

**The Executive Cabinet Member, having considered the representations received, APPROVED –**

- (i) The disposal of land at Singleton Avenue, Horwich as detailed in the report; and  
AUTHORISED –**
- (ii) The Borough Solicitor to complete all the legal formalities.**

**18. ALLOCATION OF FUNDS TO HORWICH TOWN CENTRE REGENERATION STEERING GROUP**

The Director of Place submitted a report which sought the Executive Cabinet Member's approval to the allocation of £100,000 to Horwich Town Centre Regeneration Steering Group from the sale of land at Singleton Avenue, Horwich.

The report stated that invariably housing developments caused concerns against communities on matters such as traffic, environment and loss of public amenities and this was evidenced in the recent proposal to dispose of the land at Singleton Avenue, Horwich. Following advertisement of the proposal many representations were made based on loss of green/recreational space, over development of Horwich for housing, traffic, environmental concerns and detrimental impact on health and wellbeing.

In view of the above and in recognition of the representations made in respect of the disposal of land at Singleton Avenue, it was proposed to allocate a sum of £100,000 to alleviate some of the concerns expressed by local people. This measure would offer some mitigation and benefits to local communities from the sale. It was intended that the sum would be available to the Horwich Town Centre Regeneration Steering Group as part of the masterplan for the area.

With regard to the financial implications, it was explained that the allocation of £100,000, as proposed, would reduce the net capital receipt due to be received from the sale of Singleton Avenue, Horwich. Therefore, to meet the budgetary targets, an equivalent sum would need to be recouped from further asset sales or, alternatively, capital expenditure would need to be reduced by an equivalent amount.

**The Executive Cabinet Member APPROVED the allocation of £100,000 from the sale proceeds from Singleton Avenue, Horwich to Horwich Town Centre Regeneration Steering Group.**

CC5

**In accordance with Article 5 of the Council's Constitution this decision was called in by Councillor Wilkinson for consideration by the Place Scrutiny Committee.**