

REGENERATION

A record of decisions made by the Executive Cabinet Member with responsibility for the Regeneration Portfolio:-

MONDAY 13TH FEBRUARY, 2023

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

Councillor Warren	-	Executive Cabinet Member Regeneration Portfolio
Councillor Donaghy	-	Major Opposition Spokesperson
Councillor Hayes	-	Minor Opposition Spokesperson
Councillor Sanders	-	Minor Opposition Spokesperson
Councillor Heslop	-	Minor Opposition Spokesperson
Councillor Grant	-	Minor Opposition Spokesperson

Officers

Mr. P. Whittingham	-	Assistant Director Economic Development and Regeneration
Mr. P. Lamb	-	Principal Project Officer
Ms. J. Pollard	-	Head of Finance
Ms. L. McGuinness	-	Senior Lawyer
Mr. I. D. Mulholland	-	Deputy Democratic Services Manager

17. WESTHOUGHTON TOWN HALL – REFURBISHMENT AND CAPITAL ALLOCATION

The Director of Place submitted a report which gave details of the proposed refurbishment of Westhoughton Town Hall and sought approval of funding from the District Centres Fund to deliver the Phase 2 masterplan works.

The Executive Cabinet Member was reminded of the previous reports contained within the list of background documents of the masterplan process for Westhoughton, funding of £415,459 from the District Centres Fund to implement a number of Phase 1 Key Development Priority projects (KDPs) and more recently the approval of £2.3 million from the same fund to implement a new public realm scheme along Market Street.

The report sought approval to refurbish the now vacant Westhoughton Town Hall to bring the building back into viable commercial and office use, thereby generating an income for the Council that would help to protect the fabric of the building for future generations. The refurbishment and reuse of the Town Hall was an agreed key development plan as the building was considered the most important in Westhoughton town centre and had laid vacant for the past 4 or 5 years since council services were centrally located.

The Council had engaged its property partners PSP and Clear Futures (CF) in drawing up the plans and the report gave detail of the work to date and an update on the local marketing exercise undertaken to ascertain the level of local interest in the opportunities provided by the refurbishment.

The Executive Cabinet Member AGREED to -

- (i) Approve the refurbishment of Westhoughton Town Hall as set out in this report.**
- (ii) Approve a capital allocation of £1.5 million from the District Centres Fund to procure and deliver the scheme.**
- (iii) Authorise the Director of Place and Assistant Director, Transformation and Corporate Property to finalise the design and costs in consultation with the Executive Cabinet Member Regeneration.**

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(i) Authorise the Borough Solicitor to carry out all necessary legal formalities where required.

(following this decision Councillor Hayes called in this decision, in accordance with Standing Orders, for consideration at a meeting of Place Scrutiny Committee)