

CABINET

4 JULY 2014

Present:- Councillor N W Turner (Deputy Leader of the Council/Environment and Coast Protection) (Deputy Leader of Council - in the Chair)!Councillor A Goggin (Finance and Transformation)!Councillor G V Guglielmi (Planning and Corporate Services)!Councillor P B Honeywood (Housing and Benefits and Revenues)!Councillor L A McWilliams (Well-Being and Partnerships)!Councillor M E Platt (Tourism, Culture, Leisure and Events)

Also Present:- Councillor G Mitchell

Group Leaders Present by Invitation:

Councillors I J Henderson (Labour Group) and M J Talbot (Independent Group)

In Attendance:- Chief Executive (Ian Davidson); Corporate Director (Corporate Services) (Martyn Knappett), Corporate Director (Public Experience) (June Clare); Monitoring Officer, (Lisa Hastings); Democratic Services Manager (Colin Sweeney); Finance and Procurement Manager (Richard Barrett) and Democratic Services Officer (Janey Nice)

(10.30 a.m. - 10.53 a.m.)

31. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies for absence were submitted on behalf of Councillor M J Page (Chairman), Leader of the Council and Regeneration, Inward Investment and Asset Management Portfolio Holder and Group Leaders, Councillors P J Oxley (Tendring First) and H A Shearing (Liberal Democrats).

32. MINUTES OF THE LAST MEETING HELD ON FRIDAY 13 JUNE 2014

The minutes of the last meeting of the Cabinet, held on 13 June 2014, were approved as a correct record and signed by the Chairman.

33. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

There were no declarations of interest received from Members.

34. ANNOUNCEMENTS BY THE LEADER OF THE COUNCIL

There were no announcements made by the Deputy Leader of the Council on behalf of the Leader of the Council.

35. ANNOUNCEMENTS BY CABINET MEMBERS

There were no announcements made by Cabinet Members.

36. MATTERS REFERRED TO THE CABINET BY THE COUNCIL

There were no matters referred to the Cabinet by the Council.

37. SOLAR FARMS AND THE EMERGING LOCAL PLAN

A.1 Solar Farms and the Emerging Local Plan

There was submitted a reference report by the Corporate Management Committee, which referred to a meeting of the Rural Projects Panel held on 13 May 2014, at which, the issue of solar farms within the context of the emerging Local Plan was discussed. The Panel requested that the Corporate Management Committee comment to Cabinet and the Local Plan Committee that this Council should be taking a robust, comprehensive approach to renewable energy within the Local Plan and, in particular, in pursuit of the following principles in relation to solar farms:

- (i) That solar farms should always be preferred on 'brownfield' or poor quality land and should only be permitted on 'best value' (i.e. Grade 1, 2 or 3a) land if the applicant had clearly demonstrated that a sequential test had been followed;
- (ii) That Tendring District Council and Essex County Council should encourage applications for solar farms on their own estates, on industrial areas and on public utility owned land; and
- (iii) That there should be guidance on preventing 'clustering' of solar farms in rural parishes or in close proximity to private property not part of the application.

The Corporate Management Committee, in supporting these principles added the words "and that such developments be at least a minimum of 250m from any dwelling or property" after the word "application" on line 3 to principle (iii) above.

Accordingly, it was moved by Councillor Guglielmi, seconder by Councillor McWilliams, and RESOLVED that the matter be referred to the Local Plan Committee and that when relevant reports are considered by that Committee, the comments and representations of the Rural Projects Panel and Corporate Management Committee be taken into consideration when considering these matters.

38. LEADER OF THE COUNCIL'S ITEMS

There were no items received from the Leader of the Council.

39. FREEHOLD DISPOSAL OF THE SHIP INN, KINGS QUAY STREET, HARWICH

A.2 Freehold Disposal of the Ship Inn, Kings Quay Street, Harwich

There was submitted a report by the Portfolio Holder for Regeneration, Inward Investment and Growth and Asset Management, which sought the Cabinet's approval to the freehold disposal of the Ship Inn, situated in Kings Quay Street, Harwich.

It was reported that the Council owned the premises, which had been let on a lease to a private tenant for some years. The Council, and current tenant, had both obtained independent valuations and the tenant had offered a price within the range that the Council's valuers considered to be best consideration reasonably obtainable, taking into account the existence of the lease and the position of the tenant as a special purchaser.

Accordingly, it was moved by Councillor Turner, seconded by Councillor Guglielmi, and RESOLVED that, subject to the Cabinet's decision on terms set out in the report at B.2 to the agenda, the freehold disposal of the Ship Inn, Kings Quay Street, Harwich, be authorised, in principle.

40. MANAGEMENT TEAM ITEMS

There were no items received from the Council's Management Team.

41. CABINET MEMBERS' ITEMS

B.1 Bereavement Services: Capital Works – Cremator Replacement

RESOLVED that:

1. The installation of mercury abatement equipment, as part of the recently tendered cremator replacement contract, be approved;
2. Abatement equipment be installed at this time and the successful design and build tender received be accepted, as detailed in exempt report B.1, which included provision of a new car park extension; and
3. The Corporate Director of Public Experience be authorised to enter into a ten-year maintenance agreement with the successful contractor to maintain the equipment in accordance with its tender.

B.2 Terms for the Freehold Disposal of the Ship Inn, Kings Quay Street, Harwich

RESOLVED that:

1. The terms for a freehold disposal, as detailed in exempt report B.2, be approved; and
2. The Corporate Director (Corporate Services) be authorised to enter into a contract to dispose of the site on the terms set out, within exempt report B.2, and subject to such other terms that he considered necessary.

42. EXCLUSION OF PRESS AND PUBLIC

RESOLVED, that under Section 100A(4) of the Local Government Act 1972, the press and public be excluded from the meeting during consideration of Agenda Item 12 on the grounds that it involved the likely disclosure of exempt information as defined in Paragraph 3 of Part 1 of Schedule 12A, as amended, of the Act.

Chairman