

21. MATTERS REFERRED TO THE CABINET BY THE COUNCIL**Proposed Disposal of the Council Offices, Thorpe Road, Weeley (Report A.1)**

Cabinet was aware that, at a meeting of the Council held on 17 May 2016, the following motion had been moved by Councillor Broderick and seconded by Councillor Winfield and, in accordance with Council Procedure Rule 11.4, had stood referred to the Cabinet for consideration and report:

“This Council agrees to sell the premises, Council Offices, Thorpe Road, Weeley for the best possible price.

It is no secret that this Council, like many others, is having to fund serious budget gaps in order to run basic services.

We are looking at a budget gap of £3.5 million over the next two years, we are in crisis. This council is lucky to have a team of fiscally astute officers who have managed to just about keep the Council's head above water - however there is a limit when faced with the task we now face.

We all know that staff numbers have been already cut to the quick so our only option now is look at other areas of expenditure for example to downsize underused or expensive Council offices. The obvious choice is the Council's Weeley based building. This building and its running costs is a luxury that the Council can no longer sustain or justify, as I am sure all members of the Council would agree.

It is a remote location to most users, antiquated, uninviting and totally inadequate for planning committee public attendance. This 'mausoleum' sends out a message to Tendring residents and tax payers that Tendring Council is old fashioned and has money to burn.

This Motion suggests that services currently based at Weeley offices be transferred to the Town Hall.”

In accordance with Council Procedure Rule 11.5 Councillor Broderick attended the meeting and explain the motion.

The Leader of the Council, Councillor Stock, thanked Councillor Broderick for her motion, recognising the budget savings required and pushing this matter up the political agenda.

The Deputy Leader of the Council, Councillor G V Guglielmi, stated that he would be arranging an all-Member Briefing on the future of the Council Offices, Weeley in order to ascertain Members' views on this matter.

With the permission of the Chairman, Councillor Bucke addressed the Cabinet on this item.

Having considered Councillor Broderick's explanation and the motion it was moved by Councillor Howard, seconded by Councillor G V Guglielmi and:

RECOMMENDED TO COUNCIL that Councillor Broderick's motion be not supported on the grounds that the issue should be considered as part of the wider savings proposals and therefore it is premature at this stage.