

Taunton Deane Borough Council

Executive – 4 March 2009

Report of Strategic Director (Brendan Cleere)

Relocation of the Horticultural Nursery – Project Overspend

(This matter is the responsibility of Executive Councillor Jefferson Horsley)

1. Purpose of Report

- 1.1 To seek approval for additional costs arising from the relocation of the Council's horticultural nursery to be funded from the eventual disposal of the Mount Street (Taunton) site.

2. Background

- 2.1 Following a review of the Council's horticultural nursery at Mount Street Taunton, the Executive decided on 22 June 2005 to move the nursery to a new site, invest and expand the business.
- 2.2 The Executive made this decision on the understanding that the full capital cost of purchasing a new site and relocating the nursery to this site would be funded by the capital receipt obtained from the disposal of the existing nursery site at Mount Street.
- 2.3 The Council purchased a new site for the Nursery, off Stoke Road on the edge of Taunton in July 2006.
- 2.4 Planning permission was granted in July 2007 and the new nursery was completed and handed over to the Council in June 2008. The new nursery is now operational.

3. Financial Implications

- 3.1 An overspend of £73,000 over the budgeted cost was required to complete the development of the new nursery at Stoke Road. This was due to several unforeseen factors encountered on site, including the need for improved drainage and additional works to roadways and glasshouses.
- 3.2 Consistent with the original intention outlined in paragraph 2.1, further Executive approval is required to allow the overspend of £73,000 to be funded from the disposal of the Mount Street site.
- 3.3 As outlined in the confidential report later in this agenda, the capital receipt from the disposal of this land will be sufficient to cover the costs

of purchasing the land for the new nursery site, its development and also the overspend referred to in 3.1 (totalling approx £670,000). The Council will still have a substantial surplus of capital for use on other projects.

4. Recommendation

- 4.1 The Executive is requested to seek Full Council approval for a supplementary estimate to the capital programme of £73,000 - to be funded from the eventual sale proceeds of the Mount street nursery site.

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Background Papers

Confidential Report of Strategic Director (Joy Wishlade) to Executive on 22 June 2005 – “Review of Taunton Deane Nursery”

Confidential Report of Asset Holdings Manager to Executive on 21 June 2006 – “Possible Acquisition of Highfields, Stoke Road, Taunton for the Purpose of Relocating the Horticultural Nursery”

Confidential Report of Asset Holdings Manager to Overview and Scrutiny Board on 19 February 2009 – “Former Nursery Site at Mount Street, Taunton”