

## **Executive – 29 January 2015**

Present: Councillor Williams (Chairman)  
Councillors Mrs Adkins, Cavill, Mrs Herbert, Mrs Stock-Williams and Mrs Warmington

Officers: Penny James (Joint Chief Executive), Shirlene Adam (Director – Operations), Chris Hall (Assistant Director – Operational Development), Tim Child (Asset Manager), Sue Tomlinson (Project Mnager) and Richard Bryant (Democratic Services Manager and Corporate Support Lead)

Also present: Councillors Mrs Allgrove, Beaven, Bowrah, Coles, Denington, Farbahi, Mrs Floyd, Gaines, Hall, Hayward, C Hill, Mrs Hill, Horsley, Miss James, R Lees, Mrs Lees, Ms Lisgo, Meikle, Morrell, Nottrodt, Ms Palmer, Prior-Sankey, D Reed, Mrs Reed, Ross, Mrs Smith, Mrs Stock-Williams, Stone, Mrs Warmington, Watson, Mrs Waymouth, A Wedderkopp, D Wedderkopp, Williams and Wren

(The meeting commenced at 6.15 pm.)

### **8. Apologies**

Councillors Edwards and Hunt.

### **9. Declarations of Interest**

Councillor Mrs Herbert declared a personal interest as an employee of the Department of Work and Pensions.

### **10. Executive Forward Plan**

Submitted for information the Forward Plan of the Executive over the next few months.

**Resolved** that the Forward Plan be noted.

### **11. Exclusion of the Press and Public**

**Resolved** that the press and public be excluded from the meeting for the following item because of the likelihood that exempt information would otherwise be disclosed relating to Clause 3 of Schedule 12A to the Local Government Act, 1972 and the public interest in withholding the information outweighed the public interest in disclosing the information to the public.

### **12. Proposed sale of a site at Priory Way, Taunton**

Considered report previously circulated, which sought permission to sell a site at Priory Way Taunton.

The proposed sale was based on the asset being oversized for the current use and the need for significant investment to bring the asset to a standard fit for the next 10-20 years of operation.

There was a known shortage of available employment land in Taunton and this impacted on local businesses when looking to expand their current operation. In the case of the preferred bidder there was a real chance that these businesses would be lost from Taunton if a sale could not be agreed.

Details of the preferred bidder and the bidding process that was used following the agreed marketing of the site was identified in the report.

The preferred bidder's price remained subject to vacant possession and planning.

**Resolved** that the proposals set out in the report be approved and that Full Council be recommended to support:-

- (a) The sale of the site at Priory Way, Taunton to the preferred bidder delegating authority to officers, the Portfolio Holder and the Shadow Portfolio Holder to negotiate the most appropriate conditions for this Council;
- (b) The urgent work required to determine the future operating location of the present occupiers of the site;
- (c) The underwriting of the preferred bidder's third party costs that were reasonably incurred specifically relating to planning applications on this site up to £35,000. (This would only be applicable if the alternative condition could be agreed); and
- (d) The capital receipt from the sale of the site being ring-fenced for the provision of a new site for the present occupiers, with any surplus being returned to General Reserves

(The meeting ended at 7.43 p.m.)