

Taunton Deane Borough Council

At a meeting of Taunton Deane Borough Council held in the John Meikle Room, The Deane House, Belvedere Road, Taunton on 29 January 2015 at 7.50 p.m.

Present The Mayor (Councillor D Durdan)
The Deputy Mayor (Councillor Mrs Hill)
Councillors Mrs Adkins, Mrs Allgrove, Beaven, Bowrah, Cavill, Coles, Denington, Miss Durdan, Farbahi, Mrs Floyd, Gaines, Hall, Hayward, Mrs Herbert, C Hill, Horsley, Miss James, R Lees, Mrs Lees, Ms Lisgo, Meikle, Morrell, Nottrodt, Ms Palmer, D Reed, Mrs Reed, Ross, Miss Smith, Mrs Smith, P Smith, Mrs Stock-Williams, Stone, Mrs Warmington, Watson, Mrs Waymouth, A Wedderkopp, D Wedderkopp, Williams and Wren

1. **Apologies**

Councillors Mrs Baker, Bishop, Edwards, A Govier, Mrs Govier, Henley, Hunt and Tooze.

2. **Declaration of Interests**

Councillors Coles, A Wedderkopp and D Wedderkopp declared personal interests as Members of Somerset County Council. Councillor Mrs Hill declared a personal interest as an employee of Somerset County Council. Councillor Wren declared a personal interest as Clerk to Milverton Parish Council. Councillor Nottrodt declared a personal interest as a Director of Southwest One. Councillors D Durdan and Stone declared prejudicial interests as Tone Leisure Board representatives. Councillor Farbahi declared a personal interest as a local owner of land in Taunton Deane. Councillor Mrs Herbert declared a personal interest as an employee of the Department of Work and Pensions. Councillor Ms Lisgo declared a personal interest as a Director of Tone FM.

3. **Public Question Time**

Mr Nigel Behan referred to the future of Southwest One (SW1) and in particular to the media reports that Avon and Somerset Police and Wiltshire Police were moving towards sharing services (IT, HR and Payroll etc.).

- (a) Was Taunton Deane Borough Council (TDBC) (as a partner in the Joint Venture Company-Somerset County Council, Taunton Deane Borough Council, Avon and Somerset Police and IBM - known as SW1) consulted?
- (b) Had this been included in the Corporate Risk Log?
- (c) What steps were being taken to ensure there is no detriment to Taunton Deane Borough Council?
- (d) What progress was being made to bring back (insource) services from SW1 as the contract ends in 2017?"

In response, Councillor Mrs Stock-Williams stated that:-

- (i) The Council had not been consulted;
- (ii) The matter had not been added to the Risk Log yet. A review would be undertaken shortly and the Risk Log updated as necessary;
- (iii) Discussions on the proposed sharing of services by the two Police Authorities began yesterday and continuing engagement would take place; and
- (iv) Various options were being looked at with regard to 2017.

4. **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.

5. **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 report had been considered by the Executive at its meeting immediately beforehand.

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.

Following detailed discussion, the Executive had recommended Full Council 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.

During the discussion, Members agreed that any surplus from the capital receipt obtained from the proposed sale should be used towards the provision of replacement temporary accommodation.

Resolved that it be agreed 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 allocated towards the provision of replacement temporary accommodation.

(The meeting ended at 8.25 p.m.)