

CABINET**HELD: 16 APRIL 2014**

Start: 7.00pm

Finish: 7.15pm

PRESENT

Councillor I Grant (Leader of the Council, in the Chair)

Councillors		<u>Portfolio</u>
Mrs V Hopley		Landlord Services and Human Resources
M Forshaw		Planning and Development
A Owens		Deputy Leader & Housing (Finance), Regeneration and Estates
D Sudworth		Health, Leisure and Community Safety
D Westley		Resources and Transformation

In attendance	Bell	Owen
Councillors:	Dereli	Pendleton
	Furey	Pryce-Roberts
	J Hodson	Pye
	Moran	Savage
	Nolan	West
	Oliver	Wynn

Officers

Managing Director (People and Places) (Mrs G Rowe)
Managing Director (Transformation) (Ms K Webber)
Assistant Director Housing and Regeneration (Mr B Livermore)
Assistant Director Planning (Mr J Harrison)
Borough Treasurer (Mr M Taylor)
Borough Solicitor (Mr T Broderick)
Estates & Valuation Manager (Ms R Kneale)
Assistant Member Services Manager (Mrs J Denning)

100. APOLOGIES

There were no apologies for absence.

101. SPECIAL URGENCY (RULE 16 ACCESS TO INFORMATION PROCEDURE RULES)/URGENT BUSINESS

The Leader advised that, in accordance with Rule 16 and 20 Access to Information Procedure Rules, he had obtained the agreement of the Chairman of the Executive Overview & Scrutiny Committee to consider a report from the Assistant Director Housing and Regeneration in relation to the Acquisition of Property on Firbeck Estate, Skelmersdale, as this item could not reasonably be deferred as the site had only been advertised recently and the Council would need to exchange contracts as quickly as possible in order to secure the property, which could not have been foreseen.

The Leader also advised that, in accordance with Rule 20 Access to Information Procedure Rule, he had obtained the agreement of the Chairman of the Executive Overview and Scrutiny Committee to consider the report in Part 2 of the agenda, which is not open to the public, on the grounds that it involves the likely disclosure of exempt information, as defined in paragraph 3 (business/financial affairs) of Schedule 12A to the Local Government Act 1972.

This item was considered at the end of the meeting (Minute 106 refers).

102. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

There were no declarations of interest.

103. EXCLUSION OF PRESS AND PUBLIC

RESOLVED That under Section 100A(4) of the Local Government Act 1972, the public be excluded from the meeting during consideration of the following items of business on the grounds they involve the likely disclosure of exempt information as defined in paragraph 3 of Part 1 of Schedule 12A of that Act and as, in all the circumstances of the case, the public interest in maintaining the exemption under Schedule 12A outweighs the public interest in disclosing the information.

104. MATTERS REQUIRING DECISIONS

Consideration was given to the following reports relating to matters requiring decisions, as contained on pages 2071 to 2089 of the Book of Reports:

105. SITE OF THE FORMER WESTEC HOUSE, DERBY STREET, ORMSKIRK

Councillor Owens introduced the report of the Borough Solicitor which set out the decision of the Executive Overview and Scrutiny Committee at its meeting held on 3 April 2014 in respect of the call in of a decision taken by Cabinet on 18 March 2014 in relation to the disposal of the site of the former Westec House, Derby Street, Ormskirk.

Councillor Owens moved a Motion, which was seconded, that confirmed the original decision made by Cabinet on 18 March and recommended that the decision should not be available for call in given that Cabinet had considered carefully the issues raised by the Executive Overview and Scrutiny Committee.

In reaching the decision below, Cabinet considered the comments and motion of Councillor Owens, the details set out in the report before it and accepted the reasons contained therein.

RESOLVED A. That the Assistant Director Housing and Regeneration effects a disposal of the subject site identified on the plan attached to the report, to RHA North West Ltd. and take all necessary actions and obtains all necessary consents to facilitate the sale.

- B. That call in is not appropriate for this item as Cabinet has confirmed its original decision (as set out in A. above) having reconsidered the matter at the request of the Executive Overview and Scrutiny Committee.

106. ACQUISITION OF PROPERTY ON FIRBECK ESTATE, SKELMERSDALE

Councillor Owens introduced the report of the Assistant Director Housing & Regeneration which sought authority to purchase a property to complement and enhance the works being carried out on Firbeck Estate, Skelmersdale.

In reaching the decision below, Cabinet considered the details set out in the report before it and accepted the reasons contained in it.

- RESOLVED
- A. That the Assistant Director Housing & Regeneration be authorised to take all necessary steps to purchase the property shown edged in thick black lining on the attached plan at Appendix A to the report and if retained, carry out any necessary refurbishment.
 - B. That call-in is not appropriate for this item as the matter is one where urgent action is required because the property has just come to market and the option to purchase needs to be considered and a decision made as quickly as possible.

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LEADER