

Special Cabinet minutes

Monday 14 April 2014 at 4.30 p.m.

in Conference Room 2 at the Council House, Walsall

Present

Councillor Bird	Leader of the Council
Councillor A. Andrew	Deputy Leader and Regeneration and Transport
Councillor I. Shires	Community engagement and voluntary sector
Councillor Arif	Environment
Councillor Harris	Leisure and culture
Councillor Ali	Public health and protection
Councillor Towe	Resources

3128 Apologies

Apologies for non-attendance were submitted on behalf of Councillor R. Andrew and McCracken.

3129 Declarations of interest

Councillor Arif declared a personal interest in item 4 on the agenda – Managed service for provision of temporary agency staff.

3130 Local Government (Access to Information) Act, 1985

There were no items to be considered in private session.

3131 Managed service for provision of temporary agency staff

Councillor Towe presented the report:

(see annexed)

Resolved

- (1) That Cabinet agree to award a new short-term interim contract to Starting Point Recruitment Limited for a managed service, for the provision of temporary agency staff, with effect from 1 May 2014 until a procurement process for this service provision in the medium term has been completed, which is anticipated to be completed by no later than 30 September 2014.

- (2) That Cabinet note a procurement process for a managed service for the provision of temporary agency staff to the Council has commenced and a future report will be submitted to Cabinet in relation to the award of that contract.

3132 **Grant of lease to Ryecroft Neighbourhood Resource Centre**

The following reports were submitted:

- (a) Portfolio holder
- (b) Cabinet – 19 March 2014
- (c) Regeneration Scrutiny and Performance Panel

Councillor A. Andrew presented a report which responded to the recommendations of the Regeneration Scrutiny and Performance Panel following the call-in of the Cabinet decision on 19 March 2014.

Cabinet discussed the report and the Scrutiny Panel recommendations, during which time, the Leader invited Councillor P Smith who was in attendance at the meeting to comment on the matter. Accordingly Councillor Smith addressed the Cabinet and expressed his views as a Ward Councillor. He said that given the capital expenditure and revenue running costs needed on Dartmouth House, and that there was a community facility in very close proximity, known as “the Cottage”, he supported the proposal to dispose of the site. Councillor Smith also suggested that the site would provide an opportunity for the development of bungalows which could potentially release larger family houses in the area.

In response to questions from members, the Executive Director for Regeneration explained the timescales for action on the proposal to demolish the Dartmouth House building should Cabinet confirm that decision.

A further discussion took place, following which Cabinet members were of the view that the original Cabinet Decision should be confirmed. The Leader also suggested that conversations should be had with Walsall Housing Group with a view to preserving the facilities provided by “the cottage” nearby for use by the community.

It was **moved** by the Leader and duly seconded and:

Resolved

- (a) That the Cabinet confirms its decision of 19 March 2014 as follows:
 - (1) That the grant of a twenty five year lease of the land and premises shown edged in bold on the attached plan (EPMS 3497/6), being the New Forest Road site, to Ryecroft Neighbourhood Resource Centre be approved.
 - (2) That the rent payable be fixed at a peppercorn per annum if demanded.

- (3) That approval be given to the disposal of the Council's freehold interest in Dartmouth House as shown edged in bold on plan number EPMS 3739/2 extending to 1.28 acres (5,176 square metres) (or thereabouts)
 - (4) That authority be delegated to the Executive Director for Regeneration in consultation with the portfolio holder for Regeneration and Transport to approve the terms of the lease of the New Forest Road site to Ryecroft Neighbourhood Resource Centre and for the disposal of Dartmouth House.
 - (5) That, to minimise void costs (business rates, security costs etc.), Dartmouth House be demolished and the site cleared.
- (b) That officers be requested to have a conversation urgently with Walsall Housing Group in respect of:
- (1) securing "The Cottage for local residents;
 - (2) opening-up discussions, at service level, about the use of the Dartmouth House site.

The meeting terminated at 4.55 p.m.

Leader:

Date: