

Investment Board – 10 July 2018

Minutes of the meeting of the **Investment Board** held on **10 July 2018** when there were present:-

Chairman: Cllr M J Steptoe
Vice-Chairman: Cllr A L Williams

Cllr C C Cannell
Cllr T G Cutmore
Cllr A H Eves
Cllr Mrs J R Gooding
Cllr M Hoy

Cllr G J Ioannou
Cllr M J Lucas-Gill
Cllr I H Ward
Cllr M J Webb
Cllr S A Wilson

VISITING MEMBER

Cllr P Shaw

APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies for absence were received from Cllr M J Webb.

SUBSTITUTES

Cllr Mrs L Shaw for Cllr M J Webb

OFFICERS PRESENT

S Scrutton	-	Managing Director
A Hutchings	-	Strategic Director
N Lucas	-	Section 151 Officer
M Harwood-White	-	Assistant Director, Commercial Services
M Hotten	-	Assistant Director, Environmental Services
M Petley	-	Head of Finance
M Power	-	Democratic Services Officer

137 MINUTES

The Minutes of the meeting held on 14 March 2018 were agreed as a correct record and signed by the Chairman.

138 COUNCIL PROJECTS PROGRAMME MANAGEMENT OFFICE

Members considered the report of the Strategic Director, which presented an up to date version of the Council Projects Programme Management Office Dashboard.

It was noted that the Council's Development Committee had now granted planning permission for the development of No. 19 South Street. As there was still no timeframe for how long it would take to address the residual flood risk issue, No. 57 South Street was showing as Red on the Dashboard. In response to a Member question, the Strategic Director advised that there was no benefit

forecast for No. 57 South Street in the Medium Term Financial Strategy and, therefore, no impact on the Council's Budget. The delay to the planning application for No. 57 South Street would have an impact on the timescale for disposal of the asset.

Resolved

That the contents of the Programme Management Office Dashboard be noted.

139 ASSET STRATEGY AND POTENTIAL ASSET DELIVERY PROGRAMME

Members considered the report of the Assistant Director, Commercial Services and Section 151 Officer on the Asset Strategy and emerging thinking of the Member Working Party on a potential Asset Delivery Programme.

The Asset Strategy 2018-2028 sets out the vision and objectives for the Council's built assets; it also sets out the principles used to identify the Council's key strategic assets as listed in the Strategy. High level outcomes are also included within the Strategy with further detail and emerging thinking provided in exempt Appendix 2. Members were advised that this information would be on the basis of further expert analysis to ensure high level viability and an Asset Delivery Programme would be brought to a future meeting of the Investment Board. A disposal framework would also be drafted for a future meeting of the Investment Board. There was discussion around specific sites, detailed in exempt Appendix 2; the Section 151 Officer advised that all of the Council's sites were shown in the Council's asset register with a value in accordance with accounting policies. Provision had to be made for depreciation but, as the Council owned the sites, there were no financing issues to be taken into account.

Resolved

- (1) That the Asset Strategy at Appendix 1 of the officer report be approved.
- (2) That the emerging thinking from the Working Party on a potential Asset Delivery Programme at exempt Appendix 2 be noted.

140 REFURBISHMENT/CONSTRUCTION OF NEW PUBLIC CONVENIENCES IN THE ROCHFORD DISTRICT

Members considered the report of the Assistant Director, Environmental Services which set out the case for investment in the construction/refurbishment of the Hockley public toilet block to facilitate the transfer to Hockley Parish Council.

The Assistant Director, Environmental Services emphasised that there was no option for the Council to do nothing: one of the three options for capital investment in the Hockley toilets by the Council and transfer of future maintenance to Hockley Parish Council had to be agreed as the toilets were in need of refurbishment.

In response to Member questions, the Assistant Director, Environmental Services advised that:-

- The refurbishment/replacement of the Hockley toilet block could not be linked in with the Essex County Council consultation on the future of the adjacent library site in Hockley, due to the fact that the Essex project was ongoing and unlikely to be completed within a timeframe suitable for the purposes of the District Council's proposals.
- All of the three options for investment in the toilet block outlined in the report were available to Hockley Parish Council, whose preference would be taken into account before a decision was made.
- The expected life of the 'partial renovation' option was anticipated to be five years; the 'full renovation' option could have a life of 10 to 15 years and the option to replace the current facilities with a new purpose-built unit could be expected to offer a life of 20 years or more. In addition, the purpose-built unit would be moveable and could be relocated if required.

A separate issue raised by a Member about the repairs/maintenance issues relating to the toilets in Hockley Woods would be taken away for consideration by the Assistant Director, Environmental Services and Portfolio Holder for Environment.

Recommended to Full Council

That, on completion of the lease negotiations with Hockley Parish Council, authority be delegated to the Assistant Director, Environmental Services, in consultation with the Portfolio Holder for Environment, to undertake installation or the refurbishment/replacement of public conveniences with an allocated capital budget of up to £88,000, as set out in the officer report.

141 GREEN GATEWAY TRADING (GM) LTD – APPOINTMENT OF COMPANY AUDITORS

(Note: Cllr Mrs J R Gooding declared a non-pecuniary interest in this item by virtue of a member of her family being employed by Venthams Limited.)

Members considered the report of the Assistant Director, Democratic Services, which sought approval for the appointment of company auditors for Green Gateway Trading (GM) Ltd.

It was confirmed that the appointment would be for one year and the contract would be awarded on a cost-only basis. The Head of Finance could provide details of all three quotes received after the meeting.

Resolved

That the contract to undertake the statutory audit for Green Gateway Trading (GM) Ltd for 2017/18 at a total cost of £3,500 plus VAT be awarded to Venthams Limited.

The meeting closed at 8.07pm.

Chairman

Date

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