

EXECUTIVE

TUESDAY, 22 SEPTEMBER 2009

DECISIONS

Set out below is a summary of the decisions taken at the meeting of the Executive held on Tuesday, 22 September 2009. The wording used does not necessarily reflect the actual wording that will appear in the minutes.

Members are reminded that, should they wish to call in a decision, notice must be given to Democracy Support Group no later than 4pm on the second working day after this meeting – that is, Thursday 24 September.

If you have any queries about any matters referred to in this decision sheet please contact Fiona Young (tel extn 1027).

5. THE BARBICAN AUDITORIUM

RESOLVED: (i) That approval be given to carry out formal marketing of the Barbican Auditorium, as set out in Option B and detailed in paragraphs 15-17 of the report.

(ii) That approval be given to the inclusion of the Kent Street Coach Park site, on the basis set out in paragraphs 18 and 19.

(iii) That the following relative weighting be favoured for the criteria set out in paragraph 17:

- Financial impact on Council taxpayers – 50%
- Addressing the City's economic development and planning objectives – 30%
- Provision of entertainment and community facilities – 20%

And that the criteria include a requirement for the early re-opening of the building – by December 2010 at the latest.

(iv) That authority be delegated to the Chief Executive to establish the final criteria and weighting to be used in assessing bids and final tenders, based on the contents of paragraph 16.

REASON: To enable future plans for the Barbican Auditorium to be developed and progressed and to ensure that responsibility for the final criteria and weighting of bids is taken at the highest level.

6. FUTURE OF THE HUNGATE EMPLOYMENT SITE

- RESOLVED: (i) That the development of the site as a prime location for either Central Government Office relocation or private office development be supported, and that the marketing of the site should reflect this ambition.
- (ii) That Officers be requested to ensure that the site is cleared, its archaeology investigated, prepared and in a state of readiness for future development.
- (iii) That it be acknowledged that the viability of any future development option should take account of the costs incurred to date in making the site ready for development.
- (iv) That, in the event that future development proposals are planned for the medium to long term, the investigation of short term uses for the site be requested.
- (v) That Officers be requested to monitor market conditions and report back to the Executive any significant interest in or offers for the site.
- (vi) That it be requested that future reports include updates on all recommendations arising from the meeting on 25 August 2009 with the Minister for Yorkshire and the Humber.

REASON: To ensure that all options are considered to maximise the value and development opportunities for this important site in the centre of York.

7. ADMINISTRATIVE ACCOMMODATION PROJECT FINANCIAL UPDATE (PART A)

- RESOLVED: (i) That it be noted that the abortive costs of £1.092m included in the overall Administrative Accommodation budget of £43.804m have been written off directly to the Income and Expenditure Account and funded from reserves as part of the preparation of the 2008/09 Statement of Accounts, but will remain within the total budget allocation of £43.804m.
- (ii) That the overall funding of the Administrative Accommodation project, which is estimated to use a combination of capital receipts, reserves and borrowing as the sources of funding used to support the £43.804m budget, be noted.
- (ii) That it be noted that the overall funding position will continue to fluctuate in relation to the timing and value of capital receipts and will impact upon borrowing

accordingly, and that the project remains viable in accordance with the affordability indicators, with the NPV savings remaining positive and the Venture Fund revenue reserve being sufficient to cover the early years revenue deficit and the abortive costs paid to date (paragraphs 25-27 of the report refer).

(iii) That it be noted that the £2.2m costs of relocating the Peasholme Hostel include the costs of betterment, that this element should not be accounted for as part of the Hungate land assembly costs, and that Officers be requested to table a statement indicating both the revenue and capital implications of this improvement in Social Services provision.

REASON: To ensure that Members are kept informed of the funding position on this major project and to ensure that the accounting position is correctly recorded.

8. CYCLING CITY PROGRAMME - PROGRESS REPORT 2

RESOLVED: (i) That the progress made on the Cycling City York programme be noted and that the aims and achievements of the programme continue to be supported.

(ii) That a further update report be received in March 2010, at the end of the second year.

REASON: To ensure that the programme stays on track and delivers the measures necessary to increase levels of cycling, and to ensure that funding is allocated to schemes most likely to deliver the programme's aim and thus strengthen the case for future years' funding and the benefits that brings, including reducing congestion and air pollution and having a healthy population.

9. INTRODUCTION OF A 'TAXI-CARD' FOR DISABLED YORK RESIDENTS

RESOLVED: That consideration of this report be deferred to a future meeting.

REASON: To enable further consultation and an Equalities Impact Assessment to be carried out in respect of the proposal.

10. RESULTS OF THE PLACE SURVEY

RESOLVED: (i) That the contents of the Place Survey, and the analysis included in the annexes to the report, be noted.

(ii) That approval be given to spend the Place Survey budget in the 'fallow' year of 2009/10 on assessing the

root causes of the 2008/09 results rather than conducting a full survey, in accordance with Option 2 and Officers' recommendations.

(iii) That, in view of the Council's financial position, the sample size remain the same in the next Place Survey.

REASON: To ensure that time is set aside to gauge customers' attitudes to public services and combat 'consultation fatigue'.

11. FIRST PERFORMANCE AND FINANCIAL MONITOR FOR 2009/10

RESOLVED: (i) That the performance issues identified in the report be noted.

REASON: So that corrective action on these issues can be taken by Members and directorates.

(ii) That the finance issues identified in the report be noted, in particular:

- a) The significant pressures arising due to the economic recession and social care costs;
- b) The work already undertaken within directorates to reduce the potential overspend;
- c) The need for further work to bring expenditure in line with the budget;
- d) The longer term need for growth in some budgets, which will require compensating efficiencies and service transformation across the Council.

REASON: So that corrective action can be taken to bring the Council's expenditure within budget.

(iii) That the appropriate Scrutiny committees be requested to review the reasons for, and possible options for offsetting, the increases in the number of looked-after children, together with the demand levels for adult community care packages and care packages, which are both having an impact on the Council's budget.

REASON: To ensure that there are appropriate levels of intervention and support available to the community.

(iv) That Officers be requested to update the Executive on lobbying to gain for York a fair grant based on the government formula for the City, the reimbursement of the actual costs of concessionary fares, and recycling of landfill tax money to councils like York which have exceeded government targets for recycling.

REASON: To help ensure that York receives its fair share of government grant.

**12. ADMINISTRATIVE ACCOMMODATION
PROJECT FINANCIAL UPDATE (PART B)**

RECOMMENDED: (i) That Council approve the increased use of the Venture Fund revenue reserve by £0.69m (to £2.784m) to support the early years revenue deficit, whilst noting that in the future the Administrative Accommodation project will replenish the Venture Fund reserve with the amount used, as outlined in paragraphs 17-20 and 27-30 of the report.

(ii) That Council approve the removal of the land assembly costs of £3.54m (which creates a viable asset – the development land at Hungate) from the Administrative Accommodation project budget of £43.804m into a separate capital programme scheme, as set out in paragraph 47 of the report, the funding to be realised from the sale of the Hungate site at the most opportune time, in accordance with Option B at paragraph 8.

REASON: To enable the effective management and monitoring of the Council's capital programme and to ensure the continuation of a balanced capital programme, as required by the Local Government Act 2003.