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Meeting	Executive
Date	25 January 2018
Present	Councillors Carr (Chair), Gillies, Mercer, Reid, Runciman and Waller
Apologies	Councillors Lisle and Orrell
In Attendance	Councillors Looker and Cuthbertson

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## **PART B - MATTERS REFERRED TO COUNCIL**

### **116. Future Operation of Rowntree Park Lodge and Park**

*[See also under Part A Minutes]*

The Operations Manager, Public Realm, presented a report which sought approval for the allocation of funding to enable the regeneration of the upper floors of Rowntree Park Lodge, and their lease as a Holiday Letting to provide long-term funding for the Park.

Initiatives already taken to meet the ongoing challenge of supporting the running costs of, and capital investment in, Rowntree Park were detailed in paragraphs 8 to 12 of the report. The upper floors of the Lodge, previously a park keeper's residence, had been vacant since the retirement of an employee. Officers had considered the following options to ensure its continued use, maintenance and contribution to core funding:

**Option 1** – sell the leasehold on the open market

**Option 2** – lease as private residential accommodation

**Option 3** – lease as social residential accommodation

**Option 4** – lease for commercial use

**Option 5** – expand the existing Library / Cafe use

**Option 6** – lease as a holiday letting.

Options 1, 2, 3 and 4 were not recommended as they did not comply with the legal requirement to dispose of land classed as open space for recreational use only. Option 5 was not recommended due to the high cost of works required and problems in complying with disability requirements.

In response to matters raised under Public Participation, Officers confirmed that since the move to a mobile workforce the Lodge was not needed for staff accommodation and that the conversion costs in the report were based on professional estimates.

Recommended: That Council approve the allocation of £150,000 capital budget to facilitate the regeneration of the upper floors of Rowntree Park Lodge, to be funded from the revenue receipts generated from future use of the Lodge.

Reason: To support Rowntree Park and its stakeholders in developing the facilities for a long term sustainable future.

Cllr D Carr, Chair

[The meeting started at 5.30 pm and finished at 7.43 pm].