
MEETING	STAFFING MATTERS & URGENCY COMMITTEE
DATE	19 MARCH 2012
PRESENT	COUNCILLORS ALEXANDER (CHAIR), GUNNELL, FRASER, RUNCIMAN AND GILLIES

114. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

Members were asked to declare at this point in the meeting any personal or prejudicial interests that they might have in the business on the agenda.

Councillor Alexander declared a personal non prejudicial interest in Agenda Item 6 (Redundancy) as a member of GMB.

Councillor Fraser declared a personal non prejudicial interest in the same agenda item as a member of the retired sections of UNISON and Unite (TGWU/ACTS sections).

Councillor Gunnell also declared a personal non prejudicial interest in the same agenda item as a member of UNISON.

No other interests were declared.

115. EXCLUSION OF PRESS AND PUBLIC

RESOLVED: That the press and public be excluded from the meeting during the consideration of annexes to agenda items 5 (Access York Park & Ride Land Purchase) and 6 (Redundancy) on the grounds that they contain information relating to the financial and business affairs of the authority, and information relating to individuals and the financial affairs of particular persons.

116. MINUTES

RESOLVED: That the minutes of the Staffing Matters and Urgency Committee held on 5 March 2012 be approved and signed by the Chair as a correct record.

117. PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

It was reported that there had been no registrations to speak under the Council's Public Participation Scheme.

118. ACCESS YORK PARK & RIDE LAND PURCHASE

Members received a report which asked them to approve the purchase of land at Poppleton Bar and Askham Bar to enable the construction of two new Park & Ride sites.

Officers gave the Committee a brief outline of how the current situation had been arrived at and the reason for the urgency of the decision, in that an extension to purchase the land from the local land owners would end on 31st March 2012.

It was reported that funding had already been allocated in the Council's Capital Programme for the purchase of land, but that this provision was on the basis that the land would not be acquired before full approval had been obtained from the Department for Transport. Owing to delays caused by the suspension of the Major Scheme programme by the Government the options for land purchase therefore would lapse before full approval was obtained.

Some Members agreed that the recommended approach to purchase the land now was the most appropriate way forward, but highlighted the risk that if the scheme was not approved then the Council would be paying a premium price for the land, which could only be sold back at a lower agricultural value due to its location in the Green Belt.

Other Members asked what would happen to the two purchased areas of land before construction could take place.

It was noted that on the Poppleton Bar site farmers would be permitted to crop the land up until the end of the season removing the need for compensation to be paid for the value of the crop. However compensation would still need to be paid if the crop was damaged during site investigation work. It was reported that it was not expected that access for construction would be needed until January 2013. In relation to the Askham Bar site, Officers informed the Committee that the land would be prepared in the summer of 2012 ready to receive the material to be translocated from the proposed car park areas when construction would begin in January 2013.

Following a question from a Member about the possibility of renting the land temporarily to farmers following the purchase of the land. Officers suggested that the anticipated construction start date of January 2013 would not give sufficient time for a crop to be cultivated after harvest in 2012. If the start date was significantly delayed then the option to rent the land would be reconsidered.

- RESOLVED:
- (i) That the report be noted.
 - (ii) That Option 1-‘Purchase of Land for Askham Bar and Poppleton Bar before Expiry of Land Options’ be approved which includes;
 - Purchase of land for the Askham Bar site in accordance with the conditional agreement.
 - Purchase of Phase 1 land for the Poppleton Bar site in accordance with the conditional agreement.
 - Payment of the deposit for Phase 2 land for the Poppleton Bar site in accordance with the conditional agreement.
 - Authorisation of the Director of CBSS to reprofile the capital plan in accordance with the revised payment profiles.

REASON: To ensure that land is available for delivery of the Access York Park & Ride Project.

119. REDUNDANCY

Members received a report which advised them of the expenditure associated with the proposed dismissal of a number of employees on the grounds of redundancy.

Details of the four individual employees were contained in two business cases circulated at the meeting. All of the redundancies were voluntary and no discretionary enhancements were proposed.

Some Members requested that further information on the overall number of staff that had taken voluntary or compulsory redundancy in a specific service area along with information on the numbers expected to be needed after reorganisation in that area, be brought to the next meeting.¹

RESOLVED: That the expenditure associated with the proposed dismissal of four employees on the grounds of redundancy, as detailed in Annexes A and B be noted.

REASON: So that Members have an overview of the expenditure.

Action Required

1. That further information requested by Members be brought to the next Committee meeting. MB

Councillor J Alexander, Chair
[The meeting started at 1.05 pm and finished at 1.25 pm].