

MINUTES OF THE COUNCIL URGENCY

Monday, 3 August 2015 at 6.30 pm

PRESENT: Councillors Alan Hall, Alan Smith and Alan Till (Vice-Chair).

Apologies for absence were received from Councillor Obajimi Adefiranye, Councillor Kevin Bonavia and Councillor John Coughlin.

5. Election of Chair and Vice Chair

RESOLVED that Councillor Adefiranye be elected as Chair and Councillor Alan Till be elected as Vice-Chair for the municipal year 2015-16.

In the absence of the Chair, the meeting was chaired by the Vice-Chair.

6. Declaration of interests

None were made.

7. Minutes

RESOLVED that the minutes of the meeting held on 20 October 2011 be confirmed and signed as a correct record.

8. Exclusion of Press and Public

RESOLVED that in accordance with Regulation 4(2)(b) of the Local Authorities (Executive Arrangements) (Meetings and Access to Information)(England) Regulations 2012 and under Section 100(A)(4) of the Local Government Act 1972, the press and public be excluded from the meeting for the following items of business on the grounds that they involve the likely disclosure of exempt information as defined in paragraphs [3, 4 and 5] of Part 1 of Schedule 12(A) of the Act, and the public interest in maintaining the exemption outweighs the public interest in disclosing the information

5. Milford Towers Lease Extension.

9. Milford Towers

The meeting was convened as the Executive Director for Customer Services had advised a decision was required before the Council meeting in September. This was because the leasing arrangement was to expire in December and sufficient time was required to apply to the Secretary of State for permission to extend. Meeting urgently greatly reduced the risk that permission would not be received in time.

The Executive Director for Customer Services representative presented the confidential report. He recalled that in 2011 the Mayor had agreed to decant the Milford Towers block above the shopping centre in Catford, and subsequently entered into a leasing arrangement so that the homes that had

been decanted could be made available on a short term basis to local residents at an intermediate rent. He stated the leasing arrangement was initially scheduled to complete at the end of 2015, as demolition in advance of the long term regeneration of the town centre was expected to start in 2016. However, as a result of an on-going options review, including into the potential to re-site the South Circular road, this date has now been moved back and vacant possession is no longer required at the end of 2015. Therefore on 15 July 2015 the Mayor had considered an update on the operation of the leasing scheme in place at Milford Towers and agreed that the leasing scheme should be extended for three years, with an annual review arrangement, subject to the Council receiving Secretary of State's consent to do so under Section 32 of the Housing Act 1985.

The Urgency Committee was advised that any application for disposal consent under Section 32 required Council approval. Following questioning of officers the Urgency Committee, acting for the Council, agreed that an application be made to the Secretary of State for permission under Section 32 of the Housing Act 1985.

RESOLVED that:

- (1) the environmental and financial benefits of the leasing arrangement with Notting Hill and the rationale for extending the current arrangements be noted;
- (2) the decision made by the Mayor on 15 July 2015 to approve the extension of the leasing arrangement for up to a further three years to December 2018, with reviews to be held annually, and the ability for both parties to end the arrangement at the annual review stage be noted;
- (3) the Mayor's recommendation to Council that an application to the Secretary of State for permission under Section 32 of the Housing Act 1985 to extend the leasing arrangement in this manner be noted; and
- (4) the Council should apply to the Secretary of State for permission under Section 32 of the Housing Act 1985 to extend the leasing arrangement in the manner set out.

The meeting closed at 6.38pm.