

COUNCIL

Thursday 24 January 2019

WAIVING OF CALL-IN PROCEDURES: LAND AND PROPERTY ACQUISITION (CL 03/19)

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

1. An opportunity for a beneficial land and property acquisition presented itself to the Council to timescales which did not allow the normal call-in period for Cabinet Members' decisions to apply. For this reason, it was agreed that the decision would be treated as urgent and, in accordance with the Council's Constitution (Part 4, Scrutiny Procedure Rules, paragraph 15 refers), call-in procedures would be waived.
2. Decisions taken as a matter of urgency must be reported to the next available meeting of Council, together with the reasons for urgency, in accordance with Scrutiny Procedure Rules.

Is the report Open or Exempt?	Open
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Cabinet Member:	Councillor Stuart Lawson, Cabinet Member for Resources
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Supporting Officer:	Kerry Blair Head of Operations Kerry.blair@eastssuffolk.gov.uk
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1 INTRODUCTION

- 1.1 Any decisions taken by a Cabinet Member would normally be subject to call-in procedures and, if called-in, would then be subject to review by the Scrutiny Committee.
- 1.2 The Cabinet Member with responsibility for Resources considered an opportunity for a potential beneficial property acquisition of land and property in Leiston on 21 November 2018. The Cabinet Member approved the purchase of a freehold interest on the basis that the exchange and completion took place prior to 23 November 2018. Also, on the assumption that the acquisition was successfully completed, the Cabinet Member further approved costs to refurbish existing retail units on the site to bring them back into use whilst wider redevelopment options were appraised. The timescales had not allowed the normal call-in period for Cabinet Members' decisions to apply.
- 1.3 Failure to consider the land and property acquisition as an urgent matter might have resulted in the possible sale of the property to a third party and the Council possibly losing a sound commercial opportunity.

2 FINANCIAL AND GOVERNANCE IMPLICATIONS

- 2.1 The Council had adequate funds to purchase the property and the necessary revisions will be made to the Council's Capital Programme to reflect the successful acquisition of the property asset.

3 OTHER KEY ISSUES

- 3.1 There were no other key issues.

4 CONSULTATION

- 4.1 Consideration of this acquisition as an urgent decision and, therefore, exempt from call-in procedures, was agreed in accordance with Scrutiny Procedure Rules.

5 OTHER OPTIONS CONSIDERED

- 5.1 No other options were considered due to the urgency of the matter.

6 REASON FOR RECOMMENDATION

- 6.1 Decisions taken as a matter of urgency must be reported to the next available meeting of Council, together with the reasons for urgency, in accordance with Scrutiny Procedure Rules, paragraph 15.

RECOMMENDATION

- 1. That the urgent decision by the Cabinet Member for Resources relating to a land and property acquisition, the reasons for the urgency, and the agreement to waive call-in procedures, be noted

BACKGROUND PAPERS
Part 4 of the Constitution of Suffolk Coastal District Council (Available via our website: www.eastsuffolk.gov.uk)