

COUNCIL EXCELLENCE OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY COMMITTEE

Monday, 14 June 2010

Present:

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| Councillor | P Gilchrist (Chair) | | |
| Councillors | J Keeley | A McArdle | |
| | A Brighthouse | D McCubbin | |
| | P Kearney | S Williams | |
| | B Kenny | | |

Deputies:

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| Councillors | AER Jones (In place of P Davies) | |
| | C Meaden (In place of J Stapleton) | |

In attendance:

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| Councillor | G Ellis |
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1 **CALL-IN OF CABINET MINUTE 406 (15 APRIL 2010) - HOYLAKES LIFEBOAT STATION**

At its meeting held on 15 April 2010, the Cabinet considered an exempt report of the Director of Law, HR and Asset Management in relation to offers received for the car park adjoining the original Lifeboat Station in Hoylake after the joint marketing of the site with Peel Holdings. The Cabinet resolved –

That the offer from M Rice on the terms set out in the report be accepted and, in the event of the sale not proceeding, the offer from S Barnes be accepted.

That decision has been called in by Councillors G Ellis, J Hale, J Green, Mrs L Rennie and T Anderson on the grounds that “The proposal runs counter to the criteria for regeneration of the area and that the proposals for use would not be consistent with this designation. The proposals would also be detrimental to The Kings Gap Conservation Area”.

2 **CHAIR'S OPENING REMARKS**

The Chair indicated that the meeting had been originally arranged to deal with the call-in of Cabinet minute 406 (15 April 2010) in relation to Hoylake Lifeboat Station, in accordance with the call-in guidelines. However, due to the unavailability of Members of the Cabinet and some Council officers who had been required to attend another meeting, it had been agreed with the party spokespersons that the call-in would be considered at a subsequent meeting of the Committee.

However, he proposed that Members could consider what information they required to be provided to them and to identify the witnesses that were to be called to assist the Committee in the determination of the call-in. He had sought background information from officers and proposed also to seek clarity from the lead call-in

signatory with regard to the criteria for regeneration. The Committee could then adjourn to a later date to formally deal with the call-in notice.

3 MEMBERS' CODE OF CONDUCT - DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST/PARTY WHIP

Members were asked to consider whether they had personal or prejudicial interests in connection with any item(s) on this agenda and, if so, to declare them and state what they were.

Members were reminded that they should also declare, pursuant to paragraph 18 of the Overview and Scrutiny Procedure Rules, whether they were subject to a party whip in connection with any item(s) to be considered and, if so, to declare it and state the nature of the whipping arrangement.

Councillor A Jones declared a personal interest by virtue of having an association with the RNLI, being a member of the Management Committee of New Brighton Lifeboat Station.

4 SUMMARY OF REPORT CONSIDERED BY THE CABINET

The Chair indicated that the report considered by the Cabinet at its meeting on 15 April 2010 had been an exempt report and that he had requested the officers to prepare a summary of that document, which did not contain exempt information. Accordingly, the Director of Law, HR and Asset Management presented a revised version of his earlier report, which had advised the Cabinet of the offers received for the car park adjoining the original Lifeboat Station in Hoylake, after joint marketing the site with Peel Holdings, who owned the buildings.

5 COMMITTEE DEBATE

Having regard to the Chair's opening remarks (see minute 2 ante), Members expressed the view that any consideration of the issues in advance of the call-in could prejudice its determination at a later date. Consideration was given to what further information could be requested as part of a scoping exercise to deal with the call-in notice. However, Members were of the view that information in relation to the call-in should not be considered without the relevant Cabinet Member and witnesses being in attendance, or in advance of the call-in being formally considered.

Resolved –

- (1) That the call-in be determined at a Special Meeting of the Committee to be held at 5.30pm, prior to the scheduled meeting on 8 July 2010.**
 - (2) That any request for information from officers, and the details of witnesses to be called, be provided to the Director of Law, HR and Asset Management no later than 21 June 2010.**
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