

Report from the Leader of the Council on the work of the Cabinet

Meeting held on 27 March 2019

This is my report as the Leader of the Council on the work of the Cabinet. It is an overview of the main business considered by the Cabinet at its meeting on 27 March 2019..

1. Recommendation from Local Plan Working Party

1.1 We considered the recommendations from the Local Plan Working Party held on 21 March 2019.

1.2 We agreed the change to the Local Development Scheme timetable and noted progress on:

- the site selection work;
- drafting the new Local Plan policies; and
- the local Green Space assessment methodology, subject to this being amended to reflect in the criteria the importance of green spaces to local communities that are not well served by other nearby public recreation land, following consultation with the Local Plan Working Party on the precise wording.

2. New Jetty for River Thames

2.1 We considered a report on a proposal for a new jetty for the River Thames with access from the bandstand in the Riverside car park.

2.2 We agreed to approve the construction of the new jetty for the exclusive use of commercial riverboat operations in order to increase the competitiveness of Staines-upon-Thames as a destination, and increase the number of visitors to the town which in turn would support our retailers.

3. Exempt Report – acquisition ‘V’ - Key Decision

3.1 We considered an exempt report on the acquisition of a site for the strategic regeneration of Staines town centre. The site, once developed, will deliver a steady income stream to support the Council in delivering its ambitious housing and regeneration programme across the Borough to help meet the needs of its residents.

3.2 We agreed to acquire the site and authorised:

- the Chief Executive (and delegated Officers) to undertake any necessary subsequent negotiations (including a further bid if required) and complete the acquisition of the asset (in consultation with the Chief Finance Officer, the Leader and the Cabinet Member for Finance);
- the Chief Finance Officer to decide (i) the most financially advantageous funding arrangements for the purchase, (ii) the most tax efficient method of holding the asset to include the transfer of the asset into Knowle Green Estates Limited if

and when appropriate to do so, and overall to ensure the acquisition is prudentially affordable;

- the Head of Corporate Governance to enter into any legal documentation necessary to acquire and develop the asset including any documentation required for any potential transfer of the asset to Knowle Green Estates Limited; and
- delegation of the selection of the design team and the contractor to the Group Head of Regeneration and Growth in consultation with the Portfolio Holder.

4. Exempt Report on the provision of a Property Management System - Key Decision

- 4.1 We considered a report on the award of a contract for the provision of a Property Management System to help underpin and support the on-going management of the Council's investment portfolio.
- 4.2 We approved the delegation for the award of contract for the Property Management software to the Group Head of Regeneration and Growth, in consultation with the Leader, Portfolio Holder for Finance (Councillor Williams) and the Deputy Chief Executive (Finance).

5. Exempt report – West Wing, Council offices, Knowle Green – Key Decision

- 5.1 We considered an exempt report seeking a construction budget for the conversion of the West Wing, Council Offices, Knowle Green, Staines-upon-Thames, to 25 new apartments.
- 5.2 We agreed to authorise the spend of £5,200,000 for the procurement of construction works; authorise the Head of Corporate Governance to enter into any legal documentation necessary to implement the redevelopment project; and delegate the appointment of the contractors to the Group Head of Regeneration and Growth in consultation with the Portfolio Holder.

Councillor Ian Harvey
Leader of the Council

25 April 2019