

## **ASSET AND REGENERATION TASK GROUP**

### **SUB GROUP A – KNOWLE GREEN**

**25 November 2015**

**Present:**

Cllr Harvey (Chair)    Cllr Dunn                      Cllr Thompson                      Cllr Capes

Staines-Upon-Thames Regeneration Manager (Heather Morgan - HM)

**Apologies**

Cllr Saliagopoulos

**1 Minutes of previous meeting**

Agreed.

**2 Cabinet report on property consultants (decision)**

HM advised that Cabinet had agreed the appointment of property consultants to find an office building through to completion of the sale. Further appointment(s) would be considered at the appropriate time on use of consultants for any refurbishment etc. HM confirmed that the redevelopment appointment will be considered at a later date once the strategic direction had been firmed up.

**3 Relocation – possible building/progress**

Task Group (TG) agreed that a civic space was necessary in any new building, but that it needed to be adaptable. HM noted (it is already in the brief to the consultants).

TG discussed better use of space at the Depot, and the principle of accommodating more staff there (subject to adequate parking and planning). HM advised the consultants were aware of this possibility.

A discussion was held around those partner organisations who may well come with us to any building. The valuable service provided by the voluntary sector was noted. The collective view of the TG was that partners should pay a full commercial rate or that a subsidy (for the voluntary sector only) be recognised via the grant funding system (or similar).

The location of possible 'new' office buildings (which were available) were discussed. The Staines-upon-Thames 'offer' was agreed by the TG as an investment purchase only (to let out commercially) for the right price. The Sunbury Common 'offer' was unanimously endorsed and the members re-iterated their preference for this over and above the Staines site. This was due to lower cost (both for Council and partners) and the positive comms message in light of budget pressures.

**4 Date of next meeting**

Wednesday 20 January at 7.30pm in the Goddard Room, Knowle Green