

**Record of
Executive
Decisions
published
21/Apr/2016**



Elaine Waugh
Head of Law and Governance

Civic Centre
Sunderland

21 April 2016

Record of Executive Decisions Published: 21/Apr/2016

Decision Taker:

Cabinet

Appropriate Scrutiny Committee:

Scrutiny Committee

Date decision in force:

29 April 2016

Date of decision:

20 April 2016

Full description of decision:

To:

- 1) Approve in principle the establishment of a new company/trust to deliver Children's Services functions;
- 2) Endorse and approve the engagement of all necessary consultants with relevant specialist expertise to support the detailed development of the proposals;
- 3) Authorise, subject to the principles set out in this report, the Director of People Services and Director of Children's Services, in consultation with the Portfolio Holder and Interim Director of Corporate Services, to take all necessary steps to give effect to the matters set out in the report; and
- 4) Agree to receive a further report in June regarding the proposed scope of services to be undertaken by the new company/trust, the governance model and the terms of a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) between the City Council and Department for Education (DfE) in respect of the proposals, and to receive further regular reports as appropriate regarding the further development of the proposals.

Reasons for decision:

The setting up of a company/trust to deliver Children's Services functions in Sunderland will enable the City Council to improve services for children and families in a way which is in keeping with already agreed direction of travel and to respond to the DfE Direction in relation to Children's Social Care. The proposed model will be designed to deliver a holistic service as opposed to an isolated safeguarding function.

Alternative options considered and rejected:

The following option has been considered:

- 1) To retain the services in-house, however this is not an option for those services subject to the DfE Direction which requires the transfer of services for safeguarding and looked after children to be managed outside of the Council.

Title and author(s) of written report:

Proposal to establish a new company/trust to deliver Children's Services functions on behalf of the City Council – Report of the Director of People Services

Contact Officer: Fiona Brown

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Email: fiona.brown2@sunderland.gov.uk

Is this a key decision: Yes

Does the Decision contain Confidential/Exempt Information: No

Declarations of Interest and Dispensations:

None declared

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Cabinet

Appropriate Scrutiny Committee:

Scrutiny Committee

Date decision in force:

29 April 2016

Date of decision:

20 April 2016

Full description of decision:

To:

- a) note the proposals within Phase Two of the Hetton Downs Housing Delivery Plan; and
- b) approve the funding arrangements for the delivery of Phase Two of the Hetton Downs Housing Delivery Plan 2013 – 2020 and approve the resultant variation to the Capital Programme which will be reported to Scrutiny and Council for information.

Reasons for decision:

The reason for the decision to transfer funds from Fairy, Edward and Caroline Street to Phase 2 of HDHDS is to enable the Council to deliver fully this phase of the HDHDP and allow for the necessary housing and infrastructure to truly regenerate the area by maximising connectivity and accessibility of the area and meet local housing need.

Alternative options considered and rejected:

Not to transfer the funding over for Phase 2 of the HDHDP would result in some of the infrastructure requirements becoming unaffordable. This would mean that the poor accessibility to the Country Park which is used for regional sporting events would remain poor. It could also result in no affordable housing on the site where the SMHA shows a need for affordable units. This is likely to result in the Council failing to fulfil its renewal aims in Hetton Downs and undermine the current approach

Title and author(s) of written report:

Hetton Downs Housing Delivery Plan – Phase 2 Implementation - Report of the Executive Director of Commercial Development

Contact Officer:

Liz McEvoy

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561 1240

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Is this a key decision: Yes

Does the Decision contain Confidential/Exempt Information: No

Declarations of Interest and Dispensations:

None declared

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Cabinet

Appropriate Scrutiny Committee:

Scrutiny Committee

Date decision in force:

29 April 2016

Date of decision:

20 April 2016

Full description of decision:

To:

1. Agree that the Council acquires approximately 3.65 ha. (9 ac.) of freehold land at Deptford, Sunderland on terms to be agreed by the Executive Director of Commercial Development in consultation with the Leader and Cabinet Secretary.
2. Agree that the Council grant a lease of the land at a price which is the best reasonably obtainable and otherwise on terms to be agreed by the Executive Director of Commercial Development in consultation with the Leader and Cabinet Secretary.

Reasons for decision:

The site has been closed and unoccupied since the former waste transfer business operating from the site was put into liquidation. The acquisition of the site presents the Council with an opportunity to deal with the site in order to bring back into beneficial use a strategically important employment site in the City which will contribute towards the Council's priorities of creating employment opportunities, regenerating an under utilised site and prevent the continuation of an undesirable use.

The grant of a lease is an appropriate commercial mechanism which will enable essential remedial works to be carried out to the site without any upfront capital cost to the Council for these works, and allow the expansion of an organisation which provides significant skilled employment opportunities.

Alternative options considered and rejected:

The alternative option is:-

Not to acquire the site or grant the lease. In these circumstances there would be no certainty of when this site would be brought back into beneficial use and the remedial works carried out. Not granting a lease would jeopardise the opportunity for the expansion of an organisation which provides skilled employment opportunities.

This option has been considered and is not recommended.

Title and author(s) of written report:

Acquisition of freehold land and grant of a lease of land at Deptford, Sunderland –
Report of the Executive Director of Commercial Development

Contact:

Nick Wood

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561 2631

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nick.wood@sunderland.gov.uk

Is this a key decision: Yes

Does the Decision contain Confidential/Exempt Information: No

Declarations of Interest and Dispensations:

None declared

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To:

1. Agree that the Council acquires approximately 3.65 ha. (9 ac.) of freehold land at Deptford, Sunderland on terms to be agreed by the Executive Director of Commercial Development in consultation with the Leader and Cabinet Secretary.

2. Agree that the Council grant a lease of the land to the company detailed in the report at a price which is the best reasonably obtainable and otherwise on terms to be agreed by the Executive Director of Commercial Development in consultation with the Leader and Cabinet Secretary.

Reasons for decision:

The site has been closed and unoccupied since the former waste transfer business operating from the site was put into liquidation. The acquisition of the site presents the Council with an opportunity to deal with the site in order to bring back into beneficial use a strategically important employment site in the City which will contribute towards the Council's priorities of creating employment opportunities, regenerating an under utilised site and prevent the continuation of an undesirable use.

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Alternative options considered and rejected:

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Nick Wood

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Declarations of Interest and Dispensations:

None declared