

PROPERTY ACQUISITION – AMENDMENT TO PREVIOUS DELEGATION

To: General Purposes Committee

Meeting Date: 9th September 2014

From: LGSS Director of Finance

Electoral division(s): Little Paxton and St Neots North

Forward Plan ref: Not Applicable **Key Decision:** No

Purpose: General Purposes Committee is asked to consider an amendment to a previous Cabinet delegation.

Recommendation: General Purposes Committee is asked to amend a previous Cabinet delegation and authorise the Director of Finance to agree terms for the acquisition of the former Huntingdonshire Regional College site at Almond Road in St Neots, in consultation with the Executive Director: Children, Families and Adults, the Chairman of the General Purposes Committee and the Chairwoman of the Children and Young People Committee.

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1. BACKGROUND

- 1.1 At the Cabinet meeting of 26th November 2013, a report was received from the Executive Director: Children, Families and Adults to seek Cabinet's approval to the purchase of land and buildings in the ownership of Huntingdonshire Regional College in Almond Road, St Neots to be converted for use as replacement accommodation for the Trinity School's Hartford Centre in Huntingdon, and as a replacement for mobile accommodation used for delivery of early years and childcare on the Priory Park Infant School site, St Neots.

- 1.2 Cabinet resolved:

"That the Almond Road site in St Neots is acquired from Huntingdonshire Regional College on detailed terms to be agreed by the Cabinet Member for Learning and the Cabinet Member for Resources and Performance in consultation with the Executive Director Children, Families and Adults Service (CFA) and the Council's Chief Finance Officer.

That the accommodation is then converted for use:

- a) as replacement accommodation for the Hartford Centre of the Trinity School; and
- b) for delivery of early years and childcare in St Neots.

That the purchase and refurbishment cost are met in full from the CFA five year programme of capital investment.

That the Hartford Centre in Huntingdon be declared surplus to educational requirements once vacated."

2. MAIN ISSUES

- 2.1 The terms for the acquisition of the site could not be agreed between agents representing the Council and Huntingdonshire Regional College (HRC) prior to the Council adopting its new constitution which rendered the delegation to Cabinet Members obsolete.
- 2.2 In recognition of such circumstances, the Council had taken a decision on 11th December 2013 that one-off delegations to individual Cabinet members still outstanding on 13th May 2014, when the Council moved to the new Committee arrangements, should transfer to the relevant Committee Chairman, in consultation with the relevant Executive or Corporate Director. However, the delegation for the decision in respect of the Almond Road site did not appear on the list of authorities passed from Portfolio Holders down to Committee Chairs.
- 2.3 This report does not therefore seek to vary any of the issues within the original Cabinet Report, but seeks to replicate the transfer of the delegation under that Report to the Chairs of the relevant Committees in consultation with the relevant Executive and Corporate Directors.

3. ALIGNMENT WITH CORPORATE PRIORITIES

3.1 Developing the local economy for the benefit of all

There are no significant implications for this priority.

3.2 Helping people live healthy and independent lives

There are no significant implications within this priority.

3.3 Supporting and protecting vulnerable people

There are no significant implications within this priority.

4. SIGNIFICANT IMPLICATIONS

4.1 Resource Implications

There are no significant implications within this category.

4.2 Statutory, Risk and Legal Implications

There are no significant implications within this category.

4.3 Equality and Diversity Implications

There are no significant implications within this category.

4.4 Engagement and Consultation Implications

There are no significant implications within this category.

4.5 Localism and Local Member Involvement

No implications have been identified by officers.

4.6 Public Health Implications

There are no significant implications within this category.

Source Documents	Location
Cabinet meetings 26th November 2013 and 15 April 2014 – Reports and Minutes	http://www.cambridgeshire.gov.uk/info/20146/council_meetings