

(Extraordinary) Joint Executive (Cabinet) Committee

Minutes of an extraordinary meeting of the **Joint Executive (Cabinet) Committee** held on **Tuesday 26 February 2019** at **6.27 pm** in the **Council Chamber, District Offices, College Heath Road, Mildenhall, IP28 7EY**

Present: **Councillors**

Chairman James Waters (FHDC Leader of the Council)

Forest Heath DC:

David Bowman
Ruth Bowman J.P.
Andy Drummond
Stephen Edwards
Robin Millar
Lance Stanbury

St Edmundsbury BC:

Carol Bull
Susan Glossop
Ian Houlder
Sara Mildmay-White
Joanna Rayner
Peter Stevens

109. **Apologies for Absence**

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors Robert Everitt and John Griffiths.

110. **Open Forum**

No non-Cabinet Members wished to speak under this item.

111. **Public Participation**

There were no questions/statements from members of the public.

112. **Haverhill Research Park and Suffolk Business Park Investment Fund (Report No: CAB/JT/19/007)**

The Joint Executive (Cabinet) Committee received this report which sought support for a loan of up to £7m towards costs that would support growth on the Enterprise Zones at Haverhill Research Park and Suffolk Business Park, Bury St Edmunds.

The commercial loan to the developer had potential benefit to the local economy. This loan would provide the match funding to go with the grant applications that had been made by the developer to the Local Enterprise Partnership and Greater Cambridgeshire and Greater Peterborough Combined

Authority for the capital cost of building both centres. The result of this was to make the delivery of both or either centre more likely and, therefore, to enable West Suffolk to benefit from much needed start-up space for new and growing enterprises.

Any loan from this facility would be arranged at a commercial interest rate and would generate an annual income for SEBC Council. Any lending would be subject to the strict criteria in the Loans Policy and this included ensuring that due diligence had been undertaken and the repayment of the loan was sufficiently secured to the right value. The risks associated with this proposal were, therefore, low.

RESOLVED:

That:-

1. The business case to support a £7m loan, as set out in Report No: CAB/JT/19/007, for the development of business centres and associated works by way of loan(s) for Haverhill Research Park and Suffolk Park (Enterprise Zone) Bury St Edmunds be agreed.

and

RECOMMENDED TO SEBC COUNCIL: (19 March 2019)

That:-

2. A £7m investment facility for the development of business centres and associated works by way of loan(s) for Haverhill Research Park and Suffolk Park (Enterprise Zone) Bury St Edmunds be approved.
3. Subject to the satisfaction of the Section 151 Officer and the Monitoring Officer that appropriate security is in place to protect the Council's investment and due diligence, highlighting no significant risks to the Council has been completed, delegated authority be given to the Chief Executive in consultation with the SEBC Portfolio Holder for Planning and Growth to enter into a loan agreement(s) with the developer.
4. The Council's Section 151 Officer to make the necessary changes to the Council's prudential indicators as a result of recommendation 2. above.

113. Exemption to Contract Procedure Rules: NEETs and Youth Unemployment

Place Based Support towards NEETs and Youth Unemployment – West Suffolk College's One Step Closer Service

The Joint Executive (Cabinet) Committee noted that Section 4.3 of the West Suffolk Contract Procedure Rules stated that:

'Between £50,001 and the EU Threshold, any exemption must be approved by the Officer and the relevant Assistant Director in

consultation with the Assistant Director for Resources and Performance. The Officer must provide evidence to support the request for any exemption and the relevant Assistant Director shall prepare a report for the next Cabinet to support the action taken, hence this agenda item.'

The exemption, which was exercised on 7 February 2019 and the reason for it (together with supporting evidence), had been forwarded to the Assistant Director (Resources and Performance) for approval.

The West Suffolk Councils' would like West Suffolk College (WSC) to create a service that would identify and select individuals from West Suffolk who were not in education, employment or training and had yet to be successful in securing employment and move them 'One Step Closer' to their goals.

WSC would be able to provide young people with targets coaching and training in order to prepare them with skills, attitudes and behaviours that would ensure success in further education, the apprenticeship job market or employment. For consistency and efficiency reasons, there was a need to work with one provider for this new service. WSC was the only skills provider that had a presence in all West Suffolk towns, which meant that young people could more easily access the service.

The funding that WSC was receiving from Suffolk County Council (SCC) and Suffolk Public Sector Leaders came with a stipulation that the project must start by the end of March 2019. There was a need, therefore, to work with an organisation that had excellent experience in managing projects in a timely manner and the ability to 'hit the ground running' with a short lead-in.

The total value of the exemption was £150,000 and was made under the following exemption criteria, as stated in Section 4.5 of the Contract Procedure Rules:

Exemption category	
The specialised nature of the goods, services to be supplied or the works to be executed means that only one suitable supplier has been identified or is available.	The identified supplier is the only organisation with the expertise to deliver such a project in the timescales required. There is, therefore, only one supplier that has been identified.

Therefore, the Joint Executive (Cabinet) Committee **NOTED** this exemption to the West Suffolk Contract Procedure Rules, as contained in FHDC's and SEBC's Constitutions.

The Meeting concluded at 6.33 pm

(Note: The Joint Executive (Cabinet) Committee is to be dissolved on 6 May 2019. Therefore, as a result, the minutes of this meeting remain as drafted following the meeting and cannot be confirmed by the Joint Executive (Cabinet) Committee and signed by the Chair. This is consistent with all other dissolved committees and bodies).

Signed by:

Chairman
