

Council



St Edmundsbury
BOROUGH COUNCIL

Minutes of a meeting of the **Council** held on
Tuesday 20 December 2016 at **7.00 pm** in the **Conference Chamber,**
West Suffolk House, Western Way, Bury St Edmunds IP33 3YU

Present: **Councillors**

Mayor Julia Wakelam
Deputy Mayor Terry Clements

Trevor Beckwith	Beccy Hopfensperger	David Roach
Sarah Broughton	Paul Hopfensperger	Angela Rushen
Simon Brown	Ian Houlder	Barry Robbins
Tony Brown	Margaret Marks	Richard Rout
Carol Bull	Betty Mclatchy	Andrew Smith
John Burns	Ivor Mclatchy	Andrew Speed
Patrick Chung	Jane Midwood	Clive Springett
Bob Cockle	Sara Mildmay-White	Sarah Stamp
Robert Everitt	David Nettleton	Peter Stevens
Paula Fox	Clive Pollington	Jim Thorndyke
John Griffiths	Alaric Pugh	Frank Warby
Wayne Hailstone	Joanna Rayner	Patricia Warby
Diane Hind	Karen Richardson	Anthony Williams

By Invitation:

Karen Forster (Chairman of the West Suffolk Joint Independent Remuneration Panel)

In attendance:

Clive MacLeod (Member of the West Suffolk Joint Independent Remuneration Panel)

John (Don) Watson (Member of the West Suffolk Joint Independent Remuneration Panel)

202. **Prayers**

The Mayor's Chaplain, the Very Reverend Canon Mark Hackeson of St Edmunds' Church, opened the meeting with prayers.

203. **Welcome and Introduction**

The Mayor welcomed Councillor Trevor Beckwith to his first meeting of Council following his recent election to the Moreton Hall Ward.

204. Minutes

The minutes of the meetings held on 27 September 2016 and 21 November 2016 (extraordinary meeting) were confirmed as correct records and signed by the Mayor.

205. Mayor's announcements

The Mayor reported on the civic engagements and charity activities which she and her Consort, and the Deputy Mayor and Mayoress had attended since the last ordinary meeting of Council held on 27 September 2016.

206. Apologies for Absence

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors Jason Crooks, Jeremy Farthing and Susan Glossop.

(Councillor Peter Thompson was absent and did not at any point join the meeting during the proceedings.)

207. Declarations of Interests

Members' declarations of interest are recorded under the item to which the declaration relates.

208. Leader's Statement

Councillor John Griffiths, Leader of the Council, presented his statement as contained in Paper No: COU/SE/16/020.

In addition to his statement, Councillor Griffiths formally welcomed Councillor Trevor Beckwith to the meeting; and as this was the last meeting of Council in 2016, he formally acknowledged the work of the Mayor, fellow Councillors and staff undertaken through the year. He particularly paid tribute to Marianne Hlland, Service Manager for Strategic Communications, who was shortly retiring from the organisation.

In response to a question, Councillor Griffiths stated that while the Council had and continued to work successfully with Abbeycroft Leisure to provide improved leisure services throughout the borough, there were presently no plans to provide a 50 metre length swimming pool at Bury St Edmunds Leisure Centre.

209. Public Participation

No members of the public in attendance wished to speak.

210. Referrals report of recommendations from Cabinet

Council considered the Referrals report of Recommendations from Cabinet contained within Report No: COU/SE/16/021.

(A) Referrals from Cabinet: 18 October 2016

1. Arrangements for Appointment of External Auditors

Approval was sought for a preferred option for making appropriate arrangements for the appointment of external auditors.

Councillor Ian Houlder, Portfolio Holder for Resources and Performance, drew relevant issues to the attention of Council.

On the motion of Councillor Houlder, seconded by Councillor Sarah Broughton, and duly carried, it was

RESOLVED:

That Option 3, to 'opt-in' to the sector led body (Public Sector Audit Appointments Limited (PSAA)) for the independent appointment of the Council's External Auditor, beginning with responsibilities for the financial year 2018-2019, as set out in Report No: PAS/SE/16/021, be approved.

(B) Referrals from Cabinet: 1 November 2016

1. Investing in our Leisure Provision in West Suffolk and Establishing a Long Term Strategic Partnership Approach and Reduced Management Fee with Abbeycroft Leisure

(Councillor Terry Clements declared a pecuniary interest as a Board Member of Abbeycroft Leisure Trust; and due to the nature of his businesses recorded on his Register of Interests, Councillor Richard Rout also declared a pecuniary interest as he was in competition with Abbeycroft Leisure. Both Members left the meeting during the consideration of this particular referral.)

Approval was sought for the creation of a strategic investment fund of £5m across West Suffolk (£3.5m FHDC and £1.5m SEBC) and a specific investment in Skyliner Sports Centre, Bury St Edmunds.

Council noted that the Cabinet had previously approved recommendations relating to the longer term strategic approach to leisure provision in West Suffolk through the future development of a leisure partnership agreement for consideration by St Edmundsbury Borough Council (SEBC) and Forest Heath District Council (FHDC); and a separate investment of £240,000 (ex VAT) into equipment for the Skyliner Sports Centre from the Council's previously approved capital investment to save fund.

Councillor Joanna Rayner, Portfolio Holder for Leisure and Culture, drew relevant issues to the attention of Council. In response to a question, Councillor Rayner explained that the proposed investment fund would be available for schemes across West Suffolk to provide new capacity or upgraded sports and leisure facilities. The total of £5m (£3.5m FHDC and £1.5m SEBC) would be created within each Council's capital programmes, and funded from each Council's strategic priorities and medium financial strategy reserve; however they would remain two separate 'pots'. Funding would be

allocated from the respective authority's pot depending on which borough/district the proposed future scheme was located.

On the motion of Councillor Rayner, seconded by Councillor Clive Springett, and duly carried, it was

RESOLVED:

That

- (1) the creation of a strategic investment fund of £5m, as set out in Section 3 of Report No: CAB/SE/16/055, be approved, funded from the strategic priorities and medium term financial strategy reserve, across West Suffolk (£3.5m FHDC and £1.5m SEBC) with delegated authority given to Cabinet (for sums of £500,000 or more), and delegation to the Portfolio Holder for Leisure and Culture, in conjunction with a Director and the Head of Resources and Performance (for sums of less than £500,000), to draw down from this fund subject to satisfactory business case for each investment proposal for investment in the Council's leisure facilities; and
- (2) due to the urgency of an initial funding request, an additional £177,582 (ex VAT) funding be approved, as set out in Section 4 of Report No: CAB/SE/16/055, from unallocated capital receipts for the 3G pitch at Skyliner Sports Centre to meet the additional cost incurred to deliver a 3G pitch facility to meet FA and community requirements.

(C) Referrals from Cabinet: 8 December 2016

1. Barley Homes – Five Year Business Plan

(Councillor Clive Springett declared a pecuniary interest as a Director of Havebury Housing Partnership and left the meeting during the consideration of this particular referral.)

(Councillor Robert Everitt declared a local non-pecuniary interest as a Board Member of Havebury Housing Partnership. Councillors Diane Hind and Patsy Warby declared local non-pecuniary interests as Members of Havebury Housing Partnership's Performance and Scrutiny Panel. Councillor Sarah Broughton declared a local non-pecuniary interest as her business was Prime-Purchase, a subsidiary of Savills PLC. Savills had advised Barley Homes as part of the development of its Business Plan. Councillors Trevor Beckwith, Tony Brown, Terry Clements, Beccy Hopfensperger, David Nettleton and Sarah Stamp declared local non-pecuniary interests as Members of Suffolk County Council. All of the aforementioned councillors remained in the meeting for the consideration of this particular referral.)

Approval was sought for a number of recommendations relating to the initial five year business plan devised for Barley Homes (Group) Limited.

Councillor Sara Mildmay-White, Portfolio Holder for Housing, drew relevant issues to the attention of Council, including that the Overview and Scrutiny Committee had taken the opportunity to thoroughly scrutinise the Business

Plan for which she thanked the Committee and for its subsequent recommendations for consideration by the Cabinet.

The majority of Members supported the proposals; however some concern was expressed regarding potential issues with Barley Homes being regarded as a separate entity from the Council in its role as the Local Planning Authority (LPA); whether Barley Homes would meet the LPA's 30% affordable housing requirement, where applicable; that the profits made from the company would not be ring-fenced for investment in future housing; costs required to bring forward one of the initial sites for development; and the composition of the Board of Directors for Barley Homes. These matters had been previously addressed by the Portfolio Holder during other meetings.

As no specific detail of the Business Plan (attached as Exempt Appendix A to Report No: OAS/SE/16/028) was discussed, the meeting remained in public session.

On the motion of Councillor Mildmay-White, seconded by Councillor Alaric Pugh, and duly carried, it was

RESOLVED:

That

- (1) the five year Business Plan, attached at Exempt Appendix A to Report No: OAS/SE/16/028, be approved;
- (2) a £3m revolving investment facility, to be added to the Council's capital programme, financed from the reallocation of the "Housing Company" pending capital budget of £2.35m and an additional £0.65m from the Strategic Priorities and the Medium Term Financial Strategy reserve, be approved;
- (3) delegation be given to the S151 Officer and Monitoring Officer, in consultation with the Portfolio Holders for Resources and Performance and Housing to issue equity and loan funding from the revolving investment facility (set out in (2) above), subject to state aid requirements;
- (4) the S151 Officer and Monitoring Officer, in consultation with the Portfolio Holder for Resources and Performance, be authorised to negotiate and agree the terms of such loans with Barley Homes and the funding and necessary legal agreements, taking into consideration the Council's loans policy and state aid requirements;
- (5) the sale of Council owned land as detailed in the five year Business Plan (Exempt Appendix A to Report No: OAS/SE/16/028), with outline planning permission, subject to approval by the planning authority and with Section 123 best value obligations, with the costs of planning permission being approximately £35,000 being funded from the Strategic Priorities and Medium Term Financial Strategy reserve, be noted; and

- (6) approval of the Business Plan will constitute consent for Barley Homes to issue shares and enter into debt financing, in line with the Business Plan, be noted.

2. Delivering a Sustainable Budget 2017/2018 Medium Term Financial Strategy 2017-2020

Approval was sought for progressing the securing of a balanced budget for 2017/2018 and a sustainable budget in the medium term.

Councillor Ian Houlder, Portfolio Holder for Resources and Performance, drew relevant issues to the attention of Council.

In response to questions, Council was informed that:

- (a) the projected increase in car parking income in the medium term was considered achievable and such levels of income was required to maintain existing car parks and provide additional parking for visitors and workers, particularly in Bury St Edmunds where demand was particularly prevalent; and
- (b) a written response would be provided in respect of when street lighting would be installed along the recently improved Haverhill Railway Walks scheme.

On the motion of Councillor Houlder, seconded by Councillor John Burns, and duly carried, it was

RESOLVED:

That

- (1) the proposals, as detailed in Section 5 and Table 2 at paragraph 5.1 of Report No: PAS/SE/16/029, be included, in securing a balanced budget for 2017-2018;
- (2) the items, as detailed in paragraph 5.3 of Report No: PAS/SE/16/029 are treated as pending budgets that will require the necessary approvals before they can be committed;
- (3) the items as detailed in paragraph 5.5 and Table 3 of Report No: PAS/SE/16/029, be removed from the capital programme; and
- (4) the reserve transfers as detailed in paragraph 5.7 and Table 4 of Report No: PAS/SE/16/029, be approved.

3. Mid Year Treasury Management Performance Report and Investment Activity (April - September 2016)

Approval was sought for the Mid-Year Treasury Management Report and the addition of Enhanced Cash Funds to the Council's list of authorised investments.

Councillor Ian Houlder, Portfolio Holder for Resources and Performance, drew relevant issues to the attention of Council, including that together with considering the recommendations contained in the report, Council was also asked to note the recent use of the Chief Executive's Urgency Powers.

With the recent reduction in the Bank of England base rate, it had become increasingly difficult to find suitable investment counterparties, with many withdrawing from the market and others offering less than base rate in return. To achieve reasonable rates of return on investments the Treasury team had sought approval to increase the Council's counterparty limits in order to be able to secure more favourable rates with the banks and investments houses still in the market place.

Due to the significant effect on the Council's investments and need to act quickly, following consultation between the Chief Executive; Head of Resources and Performance (Section 151 officer); Vice Chairman of the Overview and Scrutiny Committee (in the absence of the Chairman); Portfolio Holder for Resources and Performance; Chairman of the Performance and Audit Scrutiny Committee; the Treasury Management Sub-Committee; and Capita, the council's treasury advisors; the Chief Executive exercised his urgency powers, in accordance with Part C(a) of the Scheme of Delegation to Officers in Part 3, Functions and Responsibilities of the Constitution, to approve the increase in counterparty limits.

In response to a question regarding a suggestion to invest in the North West Haverhill Relief Road, Council was informed that the Council had previously invested heavily in Haverhill and through the development of the aspirations detailed in the Haverhill Town Centre Masterplan, further investment was expected to follow in future years.

On the motion of Councillor Houlder, seconded by Councillor Clive Springett, and duly carried, it was

RESOLVED:

That

- (1) the Mid-Year Treasury Management Report 2016-2017, attached at Appendix 1 to Report No: TMS/SE/SE/004, be approved; and
- (2) the addition of Enhanced Cash Funds to the authorised investments list in the St Edmundsbury Borough Council Treasury Management and Investment Strategy and Code of Practice, attached as Appendices 2 and 3 to Report No: TMS/SE/16/004, be approved.

4. Training Requirement for Hackney Carriage and Private Hire Vehicle Drivers

Approval was sought for new training requirements for Hackney Carriage and Private Hire Vehicle Drivers.

Councillor Alaric Pugh, Portfolio Holder for Planning and Growth, drew relevant issues to the attention of Council.

Council supported the requirement for new Hackney Carriage and Private Hire Vehicle drivers to undertake the complete BTEC Level 2 training course; and also endorsed the conclusion of the Licensing and Regulatory Committee and Cabinet that it was too onerous to place the expectation on existing drivers to undertake this full course, particularly if they had held their licence for a long period of years without incident or complaint.

To address some of the concerns raised by the public during the consultation on this matter but considering the potential disproportionate requirement placed on existing drivers, the majority of Members considered the additional recommendations put forward by the officers and subsequently endorsed by Cabinet (as shown in 3(a) and (b) of the report), which would require existing drivers to attend a half-day training course was an acceptable compromise. The course would cover safeguarding of vulnerable people, customer care and assisting customers with disabilities and would be provided with no cost to attendees.

On the motion of Councillor Pugh, seconded by Councillor Frank Warby, and duly carried, it was

RESOLVED:

That

- (1) the results of the recent consultation with Hackney Carriage/Private Hire Vehicle Drivers and customers on the proposal to adopt a BTEC Level 2 Certificate 'Introduction to the role of Professional Taxi and Private Hire Driver', as detailed in Report No: LIC/SE/16/005, be noted;
- (2) the change in requirements for all new drivers to complete the BTEC Level 2 Certificate be adopted; and, additionally
- (3)
 - (a) existing drivers be required to attend half-day training covering specific issues of concern including safeguarding vulnerable people, assisting customers with disabilities and customer care provided at no cost to attendees; and
 - (b) the Disciplinary Code for Hackney Carriage/Private Hire Vehicles be amended to reflect that should existing drivers fail to comply with (3)(a) above, this would constitute a contravention of this Code, and as a consequence, he/she will be required to obtain the full BTEC Level 2 Certificate referred to in (2) above.

5. Local Council Tax Reduction Scheme and Council Tax Technical Changes 2017/2018

Approval was sought for the Local Council Tax Reduction Scheme and Technical Changes 2017/2018.

Councillor Ian Houlder, Portfolio Holder for Resources and Performance, drew relevant issues to the attention of Council.

On the motion of Councillor Houlder, seconded by Councillor John Burns, and duly carried, it was

RESOLVED:

That no change be made to the current Local Council Tax Reduction Scheme or Council Tax Technical changes levels for 2017/2018, as detailed in Section 5 of Report No: CAB/SE/16/065.

6. Council Tax Base for Tax Setting Purposes 2017/2018

Approval was sought for the Council Tax Base for Tax Setting Purposes 2017/2018.

Councillor Ian Houlder, Portfolio Holder for Resources and Performance, drew relevant issues to the attention of Council.

On the motion of Councillor Houlder, seconded by Councillor David Roach, and duly carried, it was

RESOLVED:

That

- (1) the tax base for 2017/2018, for the whole of St Edmundsbury is 36,257.27 equivalent Band 'D' dwellings, as detailed in paragraph 1.4 of Report No: CAB/SE/16/066; and
- (2) the tax base for 2017/2018 for the different parts of its area, as defined by parish or special expense area boundaries, are as shown in Appendix 2.

7. Exempt: Investing in our Commercial Asset Portfolio (para 3)

As this referral from Cabinet was exempt, it was considered separately in private session under Agenda Item 14 (Minute 217 below).

211. **Report of the West Suffolk Joint Independent Remuneration Panel - Members' Scheme of Allowances**

Council considered Report No: COU/SE/16/022, which sought approval for a new Scheme of Members' Allowances for St Edmundsbury Borough Council.

The West Suffolk Joint Independent Remuneration Panel (the Panel), was appointed for a four-year term from 1 June 2016, and consisted of the following four members:

Sandra Cox; Karen Forster; Clive MacLeod and John (Don) Watson.

Karen Forster was subsequently elected Chairman of the Panel by its own members.

The Panel had previously noted and agreed its Terms of Reference, as outlined in section 2 of the report, and that the Members' Allowances for both St Edmundsbury Borough Council (SEBC) and Forest Heath District Council were to remain as two separate schemes in their own right. The Panel had also been appraised of the full range of roles covered by Members in carrying out their duties as District/Borough Councillors in relation to the current Scheme of Members' Allowances applicable to each respective authority.

Attached to Report No: COU/SE/16/022 were the following appendices:

- Appendix A: The complete list of 35 recommendations put forward by the Panel.
- Appendix B: The Panel's financial proposals, which set out the current allowances paid; the proposed allowances and the variance for each allowance.
- Appendix C: The proposed revisions to the existing SEBC Members' Allowances Scheme, shown as tracked changes.

A revised version of Appendix B was tabled at the meeting, which showed an amended calculation relating to the number of Cabinet Members. The financial proposals had previously illustrated a calculation based on a maximum of seven Cabinet Members (not including the Leader and Deputy Leader); however, a maximum of eight Cabinet Members, plus a Deputy Leader may be appointed by the Leader if required, and therefore the figures were amended to reflect this.

Karen Forster, Chairman of the Panel, was in attendance and presented a brief overview of the Panel's deliberations, conclusions and the process undertaken that had led to the significant number of detailed recommendations contained in the report. Mrs Forster thanked her fellow Panel members, the co-operation of Councillors that had supplied information or had been interviewed as part of the process, together with acknowledging the valuable assistance of the Monitoring Officer and the Democratic Services Officer (Scrutiny).

Councillor Ian Houlder, Portfolio Holder for Resources and Performance, commended the Panel for its extremely comprehensive review. However, given the number of detailed recommendations proposed by the Panel, it was felt that the item should be deferred to allow more time to consider these recommendations and other matters raised in the report.

Written comments already made since the publication of the report had been noted by the Panel and Members were asked that should the matter be deferred then any further comments should be emailed to the Head of HR, Legal and Democratic Services by 6 January 2017, which would then be presented to the Panel for consideration before the matter would be reconsidered by Council on 21 February 2017.

The majority of Members considered this was a sensible approach and noted that the current scheme, which expired on 31 December 2016, would in any event, need to be extended.

On the motion of Councillor Houlder, seconded by Councillor Carol Bull, and duly carried, it was

RESOLVED:

That

- (1) following the West Suffolk Joint Independent Remuneration Panel's consideration of Members comments, this report (No: COU/SE/16/022) be reconsidered at the next ordinary meeting of the Council on 21 February 2017; save for any amendments that the Panel may feel are appropriate; and
- (2) as a consequence of the above and as any new Scheme would not be expected to be implemented until 1 April 2017, the current St Edmundsbury Borough Council Members' Allowance Scheme be extended until a date of expiry of 31 March 2017.

(Karen Forster, Clive MacLeod and John (Don) Watson left the meeting at the conclusion of this item.)

212. **Questions to Committee Chairmen**

(The question asked of Councillor Jim Thorndyke was in connection with planning rules regarding the conversion of agricultural barns for residential use. Councillor Terry Clements had previously had a planning application for the conversion of an agricultural barn located within his property boundary, which was determined by the Development Control Committee. He declared a pecuniary interest in relation to this and left the meeting during the consideration of this particular question.)

Council considered a narrative item, which sought questions of Committee Chairmen on business transacted since the last ordinary meeting of Council on 27 September 2016, as outlined below:

Committee	Chairman	Dates of meetings
Overview and Scrutiny Committee	Cllr Diane Hind	4 October 2016 9 November 2016
Performance and Audit Scrutiny Committee	Cllr Sarah Broughton	21 September 2016 24 November 2016
Development Control Committee	Cllr Jim Thorndyke	6 October 2016 3 November 2016
Licensing and Regulatory Committee	Cllr Frank Warby	11 October 2016

In response to a question put to Councillor Jim Thorndyke, Chairman of the Development Control Committee (DCC) in relation to planning rules connected with the conversion of agricultural barns for residential use, Councillor Thorndyke stated that a written response would be provided.

However, it later transpired that this matter was not related to an agenda item from one of the DCC meetings listed above and so should have been addressed separately to the Portfolio Holder for Planning and Growth. The question would however, still be answered in writing.

(Councillors Frank and Patsy Warby left the meeting at the conclusion of this item.)

213. **Motion on Notice**

Councillor David Nettleton had given notice under paragraph 9.1 of the Council Procedure Rules of the following motion:

St Andrews Car Park, Bury St Edmunds

'The St Andrews short-stay car park is half-empty Monday to Friday, whereas the long-stay section is often close to capacity. The reason is that the current pricing policy encourages shoppers to occupy spaces in the long-stay section intended for town centre workers. By making minor adjustments to the tariffs in both sections of this car park, a more even spread of parking can be achieved for the benefit of our customers and without compromising income streams designed to meet revenue budget targets previously agreed by the Council. The anticipated date of implementation is Monday 3 April 2017.

I therefore propose that the tariffs are revised to the following: (changes highlighted in bold):-

*Short-stay section: 30 minutes 60p: 1 hour £1.10 (no change to either): **3 hours £2**. At present, there is a 2 hour option at £2 and a 3 hour option at £2.70. Our customers clearly don't like paying more than £2 for a short-stay of up to 3 hours in this car park, as the number of events per tariff band indicates.*

*Long-stay section: **Daily £4** (up from £3). The current difference between 3 hours in the short-stay section and the daily tariff is 30p. The proposed difference would be £2. A few shoppers will pay but the majority will migrate to the short-stay section. **Weekly Tickets £10** (down from £11.50) **Low***

Emissions £8 (down from £10). Many shop and office workers are not highly paid but they are key to the continued success of the town centre economy. Weekly tickets are 24/7. There are no changes planned for tariffs in either section at weekends.

In addition, I propose restoring the pedestrian path between the residential streets of Bishops Road/Blomfield Street and the Springfield/Tayfen area beyond, which was arbitrarily truncated last summer without consultation with either local ward members or the community which it served as a link to Wilko and the arc shopping centre. Most importantly, open discussions with West Suffolk College and Suffolk County Council to accommodate students Monday to Friday during term time in the long-stay section. Here also, the implementation date would be Monday 3 April 2017.'

Councillor Nettleton presented his motion, which was duly seconded by Councillor Bob Cockle.

Under Paragraph 9.5 of the Council Procedure Rules, the Mayor considered that if carried, the motion would involve the Council in expenditure not included in the Council's approved revenue or capital budget, and therefore the matter should be referred without debate to the appropriate forum, which in this case was the Overview and Scrutiny Committee.

(Councillor Bob Cockle left the meeting at the conclusion of this item.)

214. Urgent Questions on Notice

No urgent questions on notice had been received.

215. Report on Special Urgency

Council received and noted a narrative item, as required by the Council's Constitution, in which the Leader of the Council reported that at the time the Council agenda was published, no executive decisions had been taken under the special urgency provisions of the Constitution.

216. Exclusion of Press and Public

As the next item on the agenda was exempt, on the motion of Councillor Anthony Williams, seconded by Councillor John Griffiths, and duly carried, it was

RESOLVED:

That the press and public be excluded during the consideration of the following item because it is likely, in view of the nature of the business to be transacted or the nature of the proceedings, that if members of the public were present during the item, there would be disclosure to them of exempt categories of information as prescribed in Part 1 of Schedule 12A of the Local Government Act 1972, and indicated against the item and, in all circumstances of the case, the public interest in maintaining the exemption outweighs the public interest in disclosing the information.

(At this point, the Mayor's Chaplain, the Very Reverend Canon Mark Hackeson left the meeting.)

217. **Exempt Appendix: Referrals Report of Recommendations from Cabinet**

Council considered the remaining Referral of Recommendations from Cabinet, as contained in Exempt Appendix 1 to Report No: COU/SE/16/021.

(C) Referral from Cabinet: 8 December 2016

7. Exempt: Investing in our Commercial Asset Portfolio (para 3)

Approval was sought for delegated authority to be given to progress an addition to the Council's commercial asset portfolio, together with associated funding required.

Councillor Alaric Pugh, Portfolio Holder for Planning and Growth, drew relevant issues to the attention of Council.

Following a detailed discussion, the majority of Members supported the recommendations as proposed in the exempt report.

On the motion of Councillor Pugh, seconded by Councillor Peter Stevens, and duly carried, it was

RESOLVED:

The decision is contained in the exempt version of these minutes.

The meeting concluded at 8.58 pm

Signed by:

Mayor
