

WYRE FOREST DISTRICT COUNCIL

CABINET

COUNCIL CHAMBER, WYRE FOREST HOUSE, FINEPOINT WAY, KIDDERMINSTER

16 JANUARY 2024 (5PM)

Present:

Councillors: M J Hart (Chairman), I Hardiman (Vice-Chairman), B Brookes, D Morehead, T L Onslow and D Ross.

Observers:

There were no members present as observers.

CAB.56 Apologies for Absence

There were no apologies for absence.

CAB.57 Declarations of Interests by Members

No declarations of interest were made.

CAB.58 Exclusion of Press and Public

Decision: "Under Section 100A(4) of the Local Government Act 1972 the press and public be excluded from the meeting during the consideration of the following items of business on the grounds that they involve the likely disclosure of "exempt information" as defined in paragraphs of Part 1 of Schedule 12A to the Act.

CAB.59 Acquisition of Property in Kidderminster

A report was considered from Head of North Worcestershire Economic Development and Regeneration (NWedR) that sought decisions in respect of the Levelling Up Fund (LUF) grant.

The Cabinet Member for Economic Regeneration, Planning and the Green Agenda presented the confidential report and formally moved the recommendations for approval.

He gave a detailed summary of the background and key issues of the proposals. He explained that the project faced a challenging timescale because the LUF grant had to be spent by 31 March 2025. The project was expected to be fully met by the LUF grant allocated to it.

He thanked and congratulated the Officers for the work they had done with regards to the investment income generated from the grant, which had been paid in advance.

The Leader seconded the recommendations for approval.

It was agreed unanimously.

Decision: In line with the recommendations from the Overview and Scrutiny Committee from its meeting on 11 January 2024, the Cabinet AGREED to:

- 1.1 APPROVE the acquisition of the freehold of the property, as set out in the confidential report.**
- 1.2 DELEGATE to the Head of North Worcestershire Economic Development and Regeneration, in agreement with both the Solicitor to the Council and the S151 Officer and in consultation with the Cabinet Member for Economic Regeneration, Planning and the Green Agenda, completion of purchase.**
- 1.3 APPROVE the appointment of a professional team through the SCAPE Consultancy Framework to deliver multi-disciplinary professional services to RIBA Stages 2-7, as set out in the confidential report.**

There being no further business, the meeting closed at 5.20pm.