

DELEGATED DECISIONS BY CABINET MEMBER FOR FINANCE

MINUTES of the meeting held on Friday, 13 September 2024 commencing at 1.00 pm and finishing at 1.15 pm

Present:

Voting Members: Councillor Dan Levy– in the Chair

Officers: Mohamed Cassimjee (Democratic Services Officer)
H.White (Operational Manager-Assets and Investment)
C Dyer (Operational Manager-Senior Project Lead)

The Cabinet Member considered the matters, reports and recommendations contained or referred to in the agenda for the meeting [, together with a schedule of addenda tabled at the meeting/the following additional documents:] and agreed as set out below. Copies of the agenda and reports [agenda, reports and schedule/additional documents] are attached to the signed Minutes.

21 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST (Agenda No. 1)

There were none

22 QUESTIONS FROM COUNTY COUNCILLORS (Agenda No. 2)

There were none

23 PETITIONS AND PUBLIC ADDRESS (Agenda No. 3)

There were none

24 MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING (Agenda No. 4)

The minutes of the meeting held on 12 July 2024 were approved

25 SALE OF NORTH FARM, ASTON
(Agenda No. 5)

The Cabinet Member considered a report, regarding the freehold of the agricultural unit at North Farm, Aston. The property was historically let on a secure Agricultural Holdings Act tenancy. This tenancy fell away in 2016 on the tenant's death and Oxfordshire County Council (OCC) took the site back in in 2017. The decision was taken to add value to the site by seeking planning consent. If planning permission was achieved, the intention was for the farmyard and farmhouse to be marketed for sale.

The Cabinet Member agreed to the recommendations in the report.

RESOLVED to:

- a) approve, as a key decision, the freehold sale of land comprising part of North Farm, Aston.**
- b) delegate authority to the Executive Director of Resources (Section 151 Officer), in consultation with the Cabinet Member for Finance, to consider officer recommendations and agree the final purchaser and sale price.**

26 SPEEDWELL HOUSE - MAIN CONTRACTOR PRE-CONSTRUCTION SERVICES AGREEMENT (PCSA) ENGAGEMENT.
(Agenda No. 6)

The Cabinet Member considered a report regarding the expansion and refurbishment of Speedwell House to achieve a single, city centre headquarters to accommodate the Council's corporate and democratic services. This scheme was part of the City Centre Accommodation Strategy approved at Cabinet on 23rd January 2024.

The Initial Business Case (IBC) for this project was approved by Cabinet on 19 March 2024 and the project entered the capital programme (£22.680m). The building strip-out works had commenced and would be completed by the end of September 2024.

Whilst the strip-out works had been progressing, the Council had tendered the extension and refurbishment of Speedwell House which involved two-stages of appointment. Under the first stage, the contractor would be appointed to work under a Pre-contract Services Agreement (PCSA) to develop the design. As part of the second stage, the contractor would submit their final offer and programme to deliver the works based on the detail of design they had agreed to develop.

The Council was committed to delivering Speedwell House at pace

The Cabinet Member said that the process should be carried out as quickly as possible and agreed to the recommendations in the report.

RESOLVED to:

- a) approve entering the first part of a two-stage contact with Willmott Dixon for them to carry out pre-construction services on the expansion and refurbishment of Speedwell House under a Pre-Construction Service Agreement (PCSA).**

- b) delegate authority to the Director of Property in consultation with the Head of Legal Services and Deputy Monitoring Officer to complete all necessary legal documentation to give effect to this contract award.**

..... in the Chair

Date of signing 200