

Crawley Borough Council

Minutes of Cabinet

Wednesday, 12 July 2023 at 7.30 pm

Councillors Present:

M G Jones (Chair)	Leader of the Council
Y Khan	Cabinet Member for Public Protection
C J Mullins	Cabinet Member for Leisure and Wellbeing
S Mullins	Cabinet Member for Community Engagement and Culture
A Nawaz	Deputy Leader of the Council & Cabinet Member for Planning and Economic Development
T Rana	Cabinet Member for Resources

Also in Attendance:

Councillor D Crow and K McCarthy

Officers Present:

Natalie Brahma-Pearl	Chief Executive
Ian Duke	Deputy Chief Executive
Chris Pedlow	Democracy & Data Manager

Apologies for Absence:

Councillor I T Irvine and B Noyce

1. Disclosures of Interest

No disclosures of interests were made.

2. Public Question Time

There were no questions from the public.

3. Further Notice of Intention to Conduct Business in Private and Notifications of any Representations

It was reported that no representations had been received in respect of agenda item 5: *Town Hall Site Redevelopment Phase 2 & Phase 1 Final Account Confidential Part B*

4. Matters referred to the Cabinet and Report from the Chair of the Overview and Scrutiny Commission

It was confirmed that no matters had been referred to the Cabinet for further consideration.

5. Exempt Information – Exclusion of the Public (Subject to Agenda Item 4)

RESOLVED

That in accordance with Section 100A(4) of the Local Government Act 1972, the public be excluded from the meeting for the following item of business on the grounds that it involve the likely disclosure of exempt information as defined in Part 1 of Schedule 12A of the Act by virtue of the paragraph specified against the item.

6. Town Hall Site Redevelopment Phase 2 & Phase 1 Final Account

Exempt Paragraphs 3 & 5

Information relating to financial and business affairs of any particular person (including the Authority holding that information); and

Information in respect of which a claim to legal privilege could be maintained in legal proceedings.

The Leader presented report DCE/17 of the Deputy Chief Executive. The report provided an update on the project and sought approval for the next steps.

Councillor Ayling presented the Overview and Scrutiny Commission's [comments](#) on the report to the Cabinet following consideration of the matter at its meeting on 10 July 2023, which included:

- The key milestones and processes which had taken place throughout the project were highlighted, together with the mechanisms in place to monitor and manage the deliverables.
- Confirmation was provided on the financial aspects for each phase, together with the legal considerations.
- Clarification was sought and obtained on the detail of the current and future options available, along with any opportunities that afforded the Council.
- It was acknowledged that any redevelopment would provide a benefit for the Council and residents. However, the risks involved were recognised, together with the importance for all Councillors to be kept informed about the project. It was confirmed that there had been and continued to be, Executive level oversight.
- There was general support for an options appraisal to be undertaken with regards to the Phase 2 site for redevelopment.

Councillors Nawaz, C Mullins, Rana, S Mullins spoke as part of the discussion in support of the report which included seeking several clarifications from the Deputy Chief Executive.

RESOLVED

That Cabinet

- a) notes the decision to rescind the Project Agreement in relation to Phase 2 of the Town Hall Site Redevelopment, taken after informing the Leader of the Council and the Leader of the Opposition
- b) agrees to undertake an options appraisal on preparing the Phase 2 site for redevelopment, and subject to agreement of funding by the Full Council, delegate to the Deputy Chief Executive, in consultation with the Leader of the Council, the authority to proceed.
- c) agree to settle the Final Account for the New Town Hall building as set out in Section 5.8 to 5.16 subject to agreement of funding by the Full Council
- d) delegates authority to Deputy Chief Executive, in consultation with the Section 151 Officer, to finalise the remaining financial matters as set out in Section 5.17 to 5.21.

That Full Council be recommended to approve:

- a) a supplementary capital estimate of £750,000 for the preparation of the old Town Hall site for redevelopment. Funded from existing capital resources and to note that there may be future borrowing for the current capital programme.
- b) a supplementary capital estimate of £1.735m in respect of the Town hall project, funded from existing capital reserves. In addition to transfer the budget and amend funding in respect of the Phase 2 housing budget to the Town Hall project.

Reasons for the Recommendations

In February 2017, the Council agreed the deliverables of the Town Hall Site redevelopment, the budget lines to achieve this, and the delegated powers to develop and proceed with the development (set out in more detail in Section 4). This report provides an update for Members at a key milestone and seeks approval to allow the finalisation of Phase 1, and to progress with Phase 2 of the project.

Closure of Meeting

With the business of the Cabinet concluded, the Chair declared the meeting closed at 8.01 pm

M G JONES
Chair