

PROPERTY GROWTH FUND SUB-COMMITTEE

MINUTES OF MEETING Wednesday, 24 October 2018

PRESENT: Councillors Brett, Emsley and Rowbotham

OFFICERS: S. Rumbelow (Chief Executive), N. Thornton (Director of Resources), J. Searle (Director of Economy), Stephen Pressman (Rochdale Development Agency), P. Gregory (Economy Directorate) and John Addison (Resources Directorate).

Apologies for Absence: Councillor Ashley Dearnley, Councillor Daalat Ali and Councillor John Blundell

7 APOLOGIES

Apologies were received by Councillors Blundell and Daalat Ali.

8 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

There were no declarations of interests.

9 URGENT ITEMS OF BUSINESS

There were no urgent items of business.

10 MINUTES

RESOLVED

That the Minutes of the meeting held on the 5th June 2018 be approved and signed by the Chair as a correct record.

11 EXCLUSION OF PRESS AND PUBLIC

RESOLVED:

That the Press and Public be excluded from the meeting during consideration of the following two items of business, in accordance with the provisions of Section 100A (4) of the Local Government Act 1972, as amended.

Reason for Decision:

Should the press and public remain during debate on these two items there may be a disclosure of information that is deemed to be exempt under Parts 1 and 4 of Schedule 12A of the Local Government Act 1972.

12 ASSET DEVELOPMENT AND DIRECT DEVELOPMENT FUND LIVE PROJECTS

Members considered a report from the Director of Economy that outlined proposals to bring forward three Council owned sites for development either directly by Rochdale Borough Council or private business. The total estimated delivery cost of £5.12m would create over 65,000 square feet of industrial space, generate an annual

estimated income of £270,000 and provide additional benefits of business rates income, business growth and job creation.

The report also provided an overview of the performance of the Council's investment acquired using the Commercial Investment Fund.

Alternatives Considered

The Sub-Committee could decide not to develop these sites in which case it would not achieve the financial and regeneration benefits as described in the report.

RESOLVED

1. That the Sub-Committee approve enabling works, estimated project cost £800,000 on land at Oldham Road/Durham Street, Rochdale.
2. That the Sub-Committee approve the development of industrial units, estimated project cost £2,700,000 on Land at Oldham Road/Durham Street, Rochdale.
3. That the Sub-Committee approve the disposal of 1.7 acres of land, estimated cost £10,000 on Land at West Starkey Street, Heywood.
4. That the Sub-Committee approve the development of industrial units, estimated project cost £1,600,000 on land at West Starkey Street, Heywood.
5. That the Sub-Committee approve the lease of 0.4 acres of land, estimated cost £10,000 on land at Ainsworth Street and Oldham Road, Rochdale.
6. That the Assistant Director of Resources, (Legal, Governance & Workforce) be authorised to advise appropriate Council Services, to prepare appropriate legal documents and execute such documents on behalf of the Council to ensure the delivery of such projects.
7. That the information provided on the performance of the Council's investments as detailed in section 4 of the report and the property investment dashboard be noted.

13 LAND AT OLDHAM ROAD, ROCHDALE

The Property Growth Fund Sub-Committee considered a report of the Director of Economy setting out the details of an opportunity to acquire 4.22 hectares of land and buildings in central Rochdale. The buildings, comprising of occupied retail units and represented an opportunity to secure a revenue return that could contribute to the Council's property investment strategy, including contributions to budget savings.

Alternatives considered

The Sub-Committee could decide not to acquire the property in which case it would not be able to achieve the financial benefits as described within the report. To do nothing would require no expenditure, nor expose the Council to the risks of property investments.

RESOLVED:

That in relation to the purchase of Central Retail Park, Oldham Road, Rochdale, the Property Growth Fund Sub-Committee:

- 1) Approves, in principle, the purchase of the property, utilising funds from Commercial Investment Fund and Direct Development Fund, subject to further negotiations with the vendor on purchase price.
- 2) Delegate authority to the Leader of the Council, in consultation with the Directors of Resources and Economy, to approve the final terms and conditions of the acquisition.
- 3) Approves that the Council opts to tax the land and buildings comprising Plot 1 of the site, and delegate authority to the Chief Finance Officer to decide whether to opt to tax Plot 2 of the site for VAT purposes.