

**RENEWAL, RECREATION AND HOUSING
POLICY DEVELOPMENT AND SCRUTINY COMMITTEE**

Minutes of the meeting held at 6.30 pm on 2 September 2020 (Extracts)

Present:

Councillor Michael Rutherford (Chairman)
Councillor Suraj Sharma (Vice-Chairman)
Councillors Gareth Allatt, Julian Benington,
Kim Botting FRSA, Josh King, Alexa Michael and
Gary Stevens

Also Present:

Councillor Yvonne Bear, Councillor Aisha Cuthbert,
Councillor Ian Dunn, Councillor Peter Morgan and
Councillor Kieran Terry

PART 2 (CLOSED) AGENDA

**13 PRE-DECISION SCRUTINY OF PART 2 (EXEMPT) EXECUTIVE
REPORTS**

The Committee considered the following reports on the Part 2 agenda for the meeting of the Executive on 16 September 2020:-

**13b REDEVELOPMENT OF CHISLEHURST LIBRARY AND DISPOSAL
OF LAND AT 36 VINSON CLOSE, ORPINGTON**

Report HPL2020/00

This report contained confidential information in relation to the redevelopment of Chislehurst Library and the disposal of land at 36 Vinson Close, Orpington.

The Chairman announced that it was in the public's interest for the background details contained in the report to be made available to the public. It was therefore decided that those details be brought forward and discussed in the Part 1 public section of the agenda. The remaining confidential information would still be considered under the Part 2 (Exempt) section of the agenda. The public information (Part 2 redacted report) can be viewed as Annex B to these Minutes.

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The Director of Housing, Planning, Property and Regeneration reported that approval to dispose of this site and re-provide the library was originally made in 2014. The site was previously marketed and sold but the deal fell through after many years. Since then, the site had been remarketed and this report confirmed the outcome of the marketing exercise and the Executive Committee would be requested to make a decision on the preferred bidder. Designs and re-provision of the library would be subject to consultation. The actual planning application would be subject to full public consultation in line with planning legislation.

The Portfolio Holder for Renewal, Recreation and Housing assured the Chairman it was always intended that a temporary library would be provided during construction of the new site following which a new library would be established.

Councillor Sharma thanked officers, Cushman and Wakefield and colleagues for consulting with Members throughout this process. The Chislehurst Society had conducted a poll and he was confident that the proposals would be well received by members of the public.

Councillor Stevens was informed by the Portfolio Holder that the temporary library would be situated at the car park site behind the Post Office on the opposite side of the road to the current library. The new library would be comparable to the existing one in terms of book stock etc.

The timescale for the construction of the new build was estimated to be around 18 months.

Members were informed that following consideration of the 16 expressions of interest received (including scrutiny of pre-applications), only three were deemed viable.

RESOLVED that the report be noted and the Committee's comments be provided to Members of the Executive.