



Leicester
City Council

DRAFT MINUTE EXTRACT

Minutes of the Meeting of the
OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY MANAGEMENT BOARD

Held: THURSDAY, 23 SEPTEMBER 2010 at 5.30pm

P.R.E.S.E.N.T.

Councillor Grant – Chair
Councillor Bhavsar – Vice-Chair

Councillor Aqbany
Councillor Clair
Councillor Newcombe

Councillor Bajaj
Councillor Newcombe
Councillor Suleman

Also In Attendance

Councillor Wann

Cabinet Member for Culture

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52. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies for absence were received from Councillor Scuplak.

60. BRAUNSTONE HALL

The Strategic Director, Development, Culture and Regeneration submitted a report that proposed a course of action seeking to use other Council owned land to support the refurbishment of Braunstone Hall.

An officer from Strategic Asset Management introduced the item. He explained that Cabinet would be asked to approve the marketing of approximately 1.54 acres of land at Hinckley Road and Braunstone Hall and would also be recommended to approve the principle of approximately 1.54 acres of land at Hinckley Road to be used as enabling land for the Hall, and that an appropriate level of receipt will be made available towards the Hall's restoration.

Members were generally supportive of the recommendations. It was widely felt that all options for restoring the hall should be considered. Clarity was sought in respect of the financial implications, and in particular, the sums required to be spent to allow the building to become useable. The Legal officer present explained that the sums of 200 and 500 Euros stated in the report were not the amount of subsidy that the Council would provide but related to restricted limits

that local authorities could use for commercial undertakings, and this was directed by the European Union.

The amount of money required to restore the hall was questioned. An approximate figure was not provided but it was stated that a seven figure sum would be required.

In response to a question raised concerning the possible land use of the enabling land, Officers stated that it would likely to be used for employment purposes as the majority of the surrounding land was employment land.

Officers confirmed that they had been working closely for some time with a preferred bidder for the Hall, but that further financial support would be required. Officers were confident that the interest from the preferred bidder would be retained.

The Officer from Strategic Asset Management also confirmed that any money received from the sale of the enabling land would be pledged towards the restoration of Braunstone Hall.

Following a query that related to the history of attempts in restoring the Hall, it was noted that a proposal was put forward three years ago for medical/dental uses, but this did not materialise. The Board were reminded that a preferred bidder for the hall had recently emerged who was working with the City Council.

Concern was raised by Members in respect of paragraph 4.9 of the report which stated that 'If ultimately, no receipt was obtained from the Hinckley Road land, in order not to then call a halt to the process for the Hall, alternative sources of funding would need to be explored'. Members stated that they would have reservations in supporting the redevelopment of the hall if funding was provided from sources other than the enabling land. The Chief Finance Officer reported that it was not clear what money would be available for future capital programmes and that funding for the Hall's restoration did not feature in the current programme. The Board were also informed that a future report would be presented to them that would provide greater detail with regard to the timescales for committing relevant monies.

Councillor Grant, seconded by Councillor Clair moved that should the marketing of the enabling land fail to result in a suitable solution, that the situation be reviewed.

RESOLVED:

- (1) That the report be noted and the recommendations contained within it be endorsed; and
- (2) That the Board asks that the situation in relation to the refurbishment be reviewed should the marketing of the enabling land fail to result in a suitable solution.