

## **CABINET MEMBER FOR HOUSING**

RECORD OF DECISIONS taken by the Cabinet Member for Housing, Councillor Darren Sanders, at his meeting held on Monday, 29 October 2018 at 4.00 pm at the Executive Meeting Room - The Guildhall (floor 3)

### **Present**

Councillor Darren Sanders (Cabinet Member)

Councillor Luke Stubbs  
(Conservative Opposition Spokesperson)

#### **18. Apologies for Absence (AI 1)**

The Residents' Consortium representatives had sent apologies for absence, aware that the report for consideration would contain exempt information regarding a specific family.

#### **19. Declaration of Interests (AI 2)**

There were no declarations of members' interests.

#### **20. Exclusion of Press and Public (AI 3)**

Councillor Sanders, as Cabinet Member for Housing, explained that he intended to start the meeting with a presentation by James Hill, Director of Housing, Neighbourhood and Building Services on the open part of the report, before questions that needed to be raised in the closed session were taken. He would then make his decision back in open session.

**DECISION: Under the provisions of section 100A of the Local Government Act 1972 as amended by the Local Government (Access to Information) Act 1985, the press and public were excluded for the consideration of the following item on the grounds that the report contained information defined as exempt in Part 1 of Schedule 12A to the Local Government Act 1972:**

#### **Exceptional Housing Needs Case (Appendices only)**

#### **21. Exceptional Housing Needs Case (AI 4)**

James Hill, Director of Housing, Neighbourhood and Building Services, was accompanied by Jo Bennett, Head of Business Relationships, Growth and Support, Alison Cloutman, Supported Housing Business Partner, and Wayne Layton, Finance Manager. He explained the need for the appendices to his report to be exempt to ensure that the circumstances of the family were not discussed in open session. The family which was the subject of the report was not currently in Portsmouth City Council (PCC) housing stock, but they

had been on the PCC waiting list for some time. The Housing Service would use land to build a purpose built property and purchase the family's current accommodation; this would mean that the 2 properties would be added to PCC's housing stock. It would also enable another family to be rehomed into disabled adapted accommodation. Both properties were protected from the 'Right to Buy' scheme. James Hill wished to clarify that funding would be via prudential borrowing and not council tax funding, and the rental income would be used towards recuperating the costs involved (the financial appraisal which formed exempt appendix 2 explained this).

Paulsgrove ward councillors Gemma New and Jo Hooper entered the meeting during the exempt session; Councillor Sanders agreed they could stay on a business confidential basis.

After private discussions in the exempt session, Councillor Sanders asked the officers for further explanation of the £240,000 purchase cost of the family's existing property. Wayne Layton, Finance Manager, reported that the cost was approximately £190,000 for purchase, plus legal fees, stamp duty and refurbishment costs to give the total estimate of £240,000.

Councillor Luke Stubbs, Conservative Opposition Spokesperson, had no further questions or comments, but had taken the opportunity to ask questions in the exempt part of the meeting to examine the financial appraisal, the borrowing implications and other options considered by the officers.

Councillor Sanders asked about the timescales involved in this case during the exempt session.

Councillor Sanders accepted that the officers were requesting a substantial financial commitment, but this had been analysed in the exempt session, and the alternative could mean that PCC would need to pay large care costs, so the recommended option was a more cost effective and preferable solution, which he supported.

Councillor Sanders as Cabinet Member for Housing asked that officers ensure that the capital cost as outlined at £670,000 be a maximum figure, and that if there was any variation above this a report would need to come back to the Housing portfolio for decision.

**DECISION: The Cabinet Member for Housing authorised the build of a new five bed house, alongside the purchase and refurbishment of their current home, through prudential borrowing and 141 receipts.**

The meeting concluded at 4.35 pm.

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Councillor Darren Sanders  
Cabinet Member for Housing

