

**WEST OXFORDSHIRE DISTRICT COUNCIL**

**FINANCE AND MANAGEMENT OVERVIEW & SCRUTINY COMMITTEE**

**WEDNESDAY 5 FEBRUARY 2014**

**CALL IN OF CABINET DECISION – DISPOSAL OF LAND IN WOODSTOCK**

**REPORT OF THE HEAD OF LEGAL AND DEMOCRATIC SERVICES**

**(Contact: Paul Cracknell, Tel: (01993) 861523)**

(The decisions on this matter will be resolutions or recommendations to Cabinet)

**1. PURPOSE**

To consider the call-in request relating to a Cabinet decision of 15 January 2014 (Minute No 107) in respect of the disposal of Council owned property in Woodstock.

**2. RECOMMENDATIONS**

- (a) That the Committee decides whether or not to support the call-in request; and
- (b) That, if the request is supported, the Committee determines whether it wishes to submit any additional comments to Cabinet.

**3. BACKGROUND**

3.1. At the meeting held on 15 January 2014 the Cabinet considered a report containing exempt information regarding the disposal of Council owned property in Woodstock. The relevant extract from the minutes from that meeting is attached as Appendix A and the original report containing exempt information appears as Appendix B

3.2. This decision has been the subject of a call-in request from Councillors J C Cooper, Ms E P R Leffman, L D Poole and Dr E M E Poskitt in the following terms:

“In accordance with paragraph 39 of the Overview and Scrutiny Procedure Rules, we the undersigned request the call-in for scrutiny of the Cabinet decision taken on 15 January 2014 in relation to the disposal of land in Woodstock, as set out in minute no. 107 of that meeting. We believe the call-in to be necessary in order that the Finance and Management Overview and Scrutiny Committee can request the Cabinet to reconsider the decision in the context of a comprehensive report specifying other options for the disposal of the land”.

In accordance with the Overview and Scrutiny procedure rules the call-in has been referred by the Chief Executive to this Committee for consideration.

**4. ALTERNATIVES/OPTIONS**

The Committee could agree with the Cabinet’s original decision in which case the decision will be implemented immediately. The Committee could support the request or recommend an alternative position to the Cabinet for them to reconsider.

**5. FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS**

There are no direct financial implications arising from this report.

## **6. RISKS**

None

## **7. REASONS**

To enable the Committee to consider the matter in light of the call-in and the information provided in the report.

Keith Butler - Head of Legal and Democratic Services

(Author: Paul Cracknell, Tel: (01993) 861523; EMail: [paul.cracknell@westoxon.gov.uk](mailto:paul.cracknell@westoxon.gov.uk) )

Date: 22 January 2014

Background Papers:

None

Extract from the minutes of the Cabinet meeting held on 15 January 2014

107. DISPOSAL OF LAND IN WOODSTOCK

Consideration was given to the report of the Head of Environment and Commercial Services seeking approval for the freehold disposal of a council owned building in Woodstock.

**DECISIONS:**

- (a) That the Chief Executive be authorised to complete the freehold disposal of the building identified in accordance with the conditions set out in the report; and
- (b) That a capital amount of £5,000 be utilised from the 'Depot Works Woodstock' budget in order to construct a compound area for grit and sand storage in the Hensington Road car park.

**REASONS:** The Cabinet considered the decisions to accord with the council priority to be recognised as a leading council that provides efficient value for money services.

**OPTIONS:** Mr Cooper questioned whether the Council could secure an increased level of return by seeking to dispose of the property by auction or tender rather than private treaty. In response, Mr Hoare advised that the proposed terms had been endorsed by an independent valuer and the Cabinet concluded that, on balance, the current proposal offered the best prospect of securing the greatest return.