

MEETING**ASSETS, REGENERATION AND GROWTH COMMITTEE****DATE AND TIME****TUESDAY 3RD MARCH, 2015****AT 5.00 PM****VENUE****HENDON TOWN HALL, THE BURROUGHS, LONDON NW4 4BQ**

Dear Councillors,

Please find enclosed additional papers relating to the following items for the above mentioned meeting which were not available at the time of collation of the agenda.

Item No	Title of Report	Pages
5.	PUBLIC QUESTIONS AND COMMENTS (IF ANY)	1 - 6

Faith Mwende 020 8359 4917 faith.mwende@barnet.gov.uk

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No.	Raised By	Question Raised	Answer
1.	John Cox	Does the Leader of the Council endorse the description in reports to the committee (and in press releases) of "25,000" jobs at Brent Cross (sometimes "over 25,000" jobs). Has he been made aware, or could he be made aware) of how that figure was arrived at? Does he feel it could be substantially less, and under what circumstances?	This figure was established through the applicants Environmental Statement submitted in 2010 and 2014 and considered realistic by officers of both the LBB and GLA, and by the recommended south side development partner. The Environmental Statement identified the potential for new floor space to accommodate just under 27,000 jobs providing an uplift of around 25,500 jobs compared to the existing uses on site.
2.	John Cox	Does the Leader of the Council endorse the description of "7,500" homes at Brent Cross? Has he been made aware of how that figure was arrived at? Is he comfortable with documented quotes by GLA political appointees, by GLA officers and at the Outer London Commission (not necessarily being quoted verbatim here in this question) of "We believe we could squeeze 10,000 homes into Brent Cross"?	The 7500 new homes was agreed as part of the approved outline planning consent in 2010 and again in 2014. It should be noted that in the London Plan the Brent Cross Cricklewood Opportunity Area includes the regeneration of the West Hendon Estate, delivering 10,000 homes in total.
3.	John Cox	How many separate risks to the authority are involved in the various Brent Cross items on the agenda of this meeting?	The risks to the Brent Cross Programme are summarised in the risk section of the Committee reports.
4.	John Cox	Are there any risks mentioned only in exempt reports, that is, they do not get mentioned at all in public reports? If so, are	Generally risks are detailed in the public report. Only risks that are considered to be commercially sensitive or under legal

		they all quantified in the exempt reports?	privilege are included within the exempt report. .
5.	John Cox	Are all OTHER risks mentioned in public reports to the meeting and then quantified in exempt reports?	Generally risks are detailed in the public report. Only risks that are considered to be commercially sensitive or under legal privilege are included within the exempt report
6.	John Cox	Are any risks mentioned in public reports, but then NOT quantified in exempt reports?	All risks identified within the public report are dealt with in the public report itself. It should be noted that the papers considered by the Committee tonight do not relate to funding of the new Thameslink Station. This will be a decision for Policy and Resources Committee having regard to the tests agreed by that Committee in July 2014.
7.	John Cox	How do the risks manifest themselves in the authority's accounts?	<p>The Council and its advisors routinely consider project risks through its governance and reporting structures and put in place mitigation measures. Risks are monitored regularly to ensure up to date measures are put in place.</p> <p>Financial risks are considered as part of the Council's budget setting report, where appropriate reserves and contingencies are set aside, along with prudent assumptions around future funding, income and so on. The Council holds a risk reserve of £15m which is set aside for a</p>

8.	John Cox	Are they entered as contingencies?	<p>range of future risks. These include unexpected reductions in government funding, litigation and other risks. The quarterly monitoring report has the corporate risk register appended and is considered by committee regularly.</p> <p>The Council and its advisors routinely consider project risks through its governance and reporting structures and put in place mitigation measures. Risks are monitored regularly to ensure up to date measures are put in place.</p> <p>Financial risks are considered as part of the Council's budget setting report, where appropriate reserves and contingencies are set aside, along with prudent assumptions around future funding, income and so on. The Council holds a risk reserve of £15m which is set aside for a range of future risks. These include unexpected reductions in government funding, litigation and other risks. The quarterly monitoring report has the corporate risk register appended and is considered by committee regularly.</p>
9.	John Cox	Are they separate contingencies, or is essentially the same money assigned to more than one independent risk? If so, isn't that itself a risk to the authority, and is that	<p>The Council and its advisors routinely consider project risks through its governance and reporting structures and put in place mitigation measures. Risks</p>

		documented anywhere?	are monitored regularly to ensure up to date measures are put in place. Financial risks are considered as part of the Council's budget setting report, where appropriate reserves and contingencies are set aside, along with prudent assumptions around future funding, income and so on. The Council holds a risk reserve of £15m which is set aside for a range of future risks. These include unexpected reductions in government funding, litigation and other risks. The quarterly monitoring report has the corporate risk register appended and is considered by committee regularly.
10.	John Cox	Please confirm that you are not prepared to make public the scale of any of the risks mentioned in the Brent Cross reports to committee.	The majority of risks are set out in the public report. Only risks that are considered to be commercially sensitive or under legal privilege are included within the exempt report and therefore will not be made public. .
11.	John Cox	Over what time period are these risks existent?	Risks are monitored and assessed continually throughout the lifetime of the project and reported through the governance and internal reporting structures. Appropriate mitigation measures are put in place.

12.	John Cox	Which year is 'peak-risk'?	Risks are monitored and assessed continually throughout the lifetime of the project and reported through the governance and internal reporting structures. Appropriate mitigation measures are put in place.
13.	John Cox	Which year do the various risks run out? That is, have members been told when is the authority is clear of each of the risks?	Risks are placed on the risk register as soon as identified and are removed when that risk is no longer applicable.
14.	John Cox	Who is personally liable if the authority's members approve an officer's report that underestimates a risk, that then has to be paid out?	Nobody is personally liable for decisions made by a local authority. A decision which is ultra vires an authority can only be subject to judicial review.
15.	John Cox	Will the Leader of the Council repeat here what he said at the Urgency Committee, that the authority will not take on absolutely any level of risk, in order to produce development of the Brent Cross scheme (which dates back to 1996)?	Judgements on the appropriate level of risk for the Council to take are for individual Committees to take in relation to the specific decisions they consider.
16.	John Cox	Is the Leader still unwilling to make public the authority's own risk threshold, below which development is supported, and above which development is not supported. Does he consider that the threshold is set at a level governed by a political decision by members, or a financial decision by officers?	Judgements on the appropriate level of risk for the Council to take are for individual Committees to take in relation to the specific decisions they consider.

17.	John Cox	Even without making the threshold public, is the Leader aware of how the threshold has been calculated?	Judgements on the appropriate level of risk for the Council to take are for individual Committees to take in relation to the specific decisions they consider.
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