Decisions of the Urgency Committee

26 February 2015

Members Present:-

Councillor Richard Cornelius (Chairman)
Councillor Daniel Thomas (Vice-Chairman)
Councillor Alison Moore

1. MINUTES

RESOLVED – That the minutes of the meeting of 29 January be agreed as a correct record.

2. ABSENCE OF MEMBERS

None.

3. DECLARATION OF MEMBER INTERESTS

None.

4. REPORT OF THE MONITORING OFFICER

None.

5. DECLARATION OF MEMBERS' DISCLOSABLE PECUNIARY INTERESTS AND NON-PECUNIARY INTERESTS (IF ANY)

None.

6. PUBLIC QUESTIONS AND COMMENTS (IF ANY)

Mr John Cox made public comments on agenda item 8.

Details of the questions asked and the published answers were provided with the agenda papers for the meeting. Verbal responses were given to the supplementary questions at the meeting.

Following a question from Mr Cox, officers clarified that the reference to an exempt report in paragraph 2.3 related to a January 2014 exempt report, and a reference to an exempt report in 2.5 related to the exempt report being considered as part of 26 February 2015 agenda.

7. MEMBERS' ITEMS (IF ANY)

None.

8. BRENT CROSS CRICKLEWOOD REGENERATION

Prior to consideration of this item, the Chairman confirmed that he had consulted with the Chairman of the Assets Regeneration and Growth Committee (who was also present in the Urgency Committee meeting) and was himself the Chairman of the Policy and Resources Committee, in line with constitutional requirements.

The officer presenting the report was requested to outline the reasons for the item being urgent. It was noted that negotiations had taken the Council beyond the terms authorised by Cabinet Resources Committee in January 2014, and that a further committee decision was therefore required to approve the final terms of the Commercial Agreements. It was noted that the finalisation of the terms of the Commercial Agreements was required prior to the authorisation of Compulsory Purchase Orders in March 2015. Officers noted that a special meeting of Assets Regeneration and Growth Committee had been called on 3 March to allow for consideration of the Compulsory Purchase Orders by that committee and a recommendation being made to Full Council for final decision, also on 3 March.

The majority of decisions in this report would ordinarily be approved by the Assets Regeneration and Growth Committee, with the exception of the additional land acquisition costs which would require approval by Policy and Resources Committee. Officers noted that there was not sufficient time to call two Committee meetings (Policy and Resources Committee and Assets, Regeneration and Growth Committee) with 5 clear working days' notice in accordance with the rules in the Constitution. The Chairmen of both Committees would have needed to seek and gain the agreement of a majority of Members of each of the Committees late on Thursday 19 February in order to publish notice that evening, for meetings which would have had to be held on Friday 27 February (the last date for authorising the Commercial Agreements ahead of decisions on the CPOs). Establishing the required member and officer availability at such late notice was not feasible.

The Committee considered the report and the accompanying exempt information.

Having been put to the vote the Committee voted:

In favour	2
Against	0
Abstain	1

RESOLVED – That the Committee

- a) Approve the changes to the terms of the Co-operation Agreement and CRL Share Purchase Agreement (as considered and approved by CRC in January 2014) as set out in Section 2 of this report and associated increased acquisition costs and capital budget to be approved for these agreements;
- b) Authorise the Chief Executive in consultation with the Leader of the Council to agree the detail of the Co-operation Agreement and CRL Share Purchase Agreement:

9. ANY OTHER ITEM(S) THAT THE CHAIRMAN DECIDES ARE URGENT

None.

10. MOTION TO EXCLUDE THE PRESS AND PUBLIC

RESOLVED - That under Section 100A (4) of the Local Government Act 1972 the public be excluded from the meeting for the following items of business on the grounds that they involve the likely disclosure of exempt information as defined in paragraph 3 and 5 of Part 1 of Schedule 12A of the Act (as amended).

11. BRENT CROSS CRICKLEWOOD REGENERATION (EXEMPT)

RESOLVED - that the information contained in the exempt report be noted.

12. ANY OTHER EXEMPT ITEM(S) THAT THE CHAIRMAN DECIDES ARE URGENT

None.

The meeting finished at 6.05 pm