

Commercial Ventures Executive Sub-Committee



Schedule of decisions

30 January 2020

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Final date for Call-in under Overview & Scrutiny Procedure Rule 15:

Contact Officer: Democratic Services (01737 276182)

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ITEM

1. MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING

RESOLVED to approve the minutes of the meeting held on 5 December 2019 as a correct record.

4. JOINT VENTURE - RAVEN HOUSING TRUST AND REIGATE AND BANSTEAD BOROUGH COUNCIL

RESOLVED that the Head of Legal and Governance, in consultation with the Director of People and the members of the Commercial Ventures Executive Sub-Committee and Executive Member(s) with responsibility for Housing, be authorised to finalise terms for and establish a Joint Venture Limited Liability Partnership between Reigate and Banstead Borough Council and Raven Housing Trust, in line with the objectives set out in the report.

Reason for decision:

The recommended action would facilitate effective future joint working between Reigate and Banstead Borough Council and Raven Housing Trust to deliver housing, particularly affordable housing, in the borough, thereby supporting the objectives of the Council's Corporate Plan and Housing Delivery Strategy.

Alternative options:

To authorise the Head of Legal and Governance to negotiate with RHT to establish a different delivery model, or not authorise the Head of Legal and Governance to finalise terms for and establish a Joint Venture Limited Liability Partnership between the Council and RHT.

Lead officer:

Head of Legal and Governance

5. ACQUISITION OF PROPERTY IN EARLSWOOD AND WHITEBUSHES

RESOLVED that:

- i) subject to satisfactory due diligence, the Head of Legal and Governance, in consultation with the Head of Finance and Assets and members of the Commercial Ventures Executive Sub-Committee, be authorised to:
 - (a) Acquire the freehold/leasehold of the properties in Earlswood and Whitebushes as detailed in the exempt report in Part 2 of the report; and
 - (b) Fund the acquisition and supporting costs from the funding allocated within the approved capital programme for investment in capital schemes to support delivery of the Corporate Plan, Housing delivery Strategy and Investment Strategy.

Reason for decision:

To assist in the achievement of the Council's place-shaping and commercial objectives as set out in the Council's five year Corporate Plan.

Alternative options:

To not authorise the acquisition and not deliver against a number of people and place priorities and not generate income for the Council.

Lead officer:

Director of Finance and Organisation

6. INVESTMENT AND COMPANY GOVERNANCE AND RESOURCING

RESOLVED that:

- (i) the Head of Legal & Governance, in consultation with the members of the Commercial Ventures Executive Sub-Committee, be authorised to establish a company, and undertake all necessary supporting actions, for the purposes of acting as a holding company to consider and commission commercial activities on behalf of the Council, including acquiring and establishing additional companies, consideration of business plans, and oversight of commercial governance arrangements.
- (ii) shareholder consent be granted for the acquisition of the Council's existing stake in Greensand Holdings Limited and RBBC Limited by the new holding company to be established under recommendation (i) on behalf of Greensand Holdings Limited, RBBC Limited, and the new holding company once established, subject to approval of the terms of acquisition by the Head of Legal and Governance, in consultation with the members of the Commercial Ventures Executive Sub-Committee.
- (iii) the Head of Legal and Governance be authorised to undertake necessary steps to recruit suitably qualified directors from the elected membership of the Council to serve on the Boards of the proposed holding company that she be authorised to recruit for suitably qualified directors for all existing and future subsidiaries as set

out in this report, such appointments to include non-executive directors.

- (iv) the Commercial Ventures Executive Sub-Committee's support for additional staffing resources being provided for the Council's investment and commercial activities be noted.
- (v) the Employment Committee be asked to agree the creation of and recruitment to a new post of Commercial Director.

Reason for decision:

It was essential for this change to be made to our organisation structure to ensure it remained fit for purpose and was capable of delivering the Council's vision and priorities. The recommendations are the logical next step on that journey now the Council has examined best practice at other authorities. These proposals ensure that the revised commercial governance structure will be transparent but also able to move at pace to take advantage of commercial opportunities that arise.

Alternative options:

If, after reviewing the Recommendations and supporting report, adjustments are required, the Commercial Ventures Executive Sub-Committee could request the necessary adjustments be made and approve the actions subject to those adjustments, or do not approve the Recommendations.

Lead officer:

Director of Finance and Organisation

Meeting closed at 7.04 pm

Distribution (Electronically):

All Councillors (eMembers Room) and Management Team including the Chief Executive, S151 Officer, Monitoring Officer and Communications and Information Manager