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OVERVIEW & SCRUTINY COMMITTEE - 31.5.2017

MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE OVERVIEW & SCRUTINY COMMITTEE HELD ON WEDNESDAY, 31 MAY 2017

COUNCILLORS: Derek Levy (Chair), Nneka Keazor, Guney Dogan, Sarah
PRESENT Doyle, Robert Hayward, Edward Smith.

STATUTORY 1 *vacancy (Church of England diocese representative), Mr*
CO-OPTES *Simon Goulden (other faiths/denominations*
representative), Mr Tony Murphy (Catholic diocese
representative), Alicia Meniru & 1 vacancy (Parent
Governor representative) – Italics Denotes absence

OFFICERS: James Rolfe (Executive Director FR&CS), Peter George
(AD Regeneration & Environment), Alan Fleming (Meridian
Water Programme Director), Heather McManus (Property
Consultant, Strategic Property Services), Claire Johnson
(Governance & Scrutiny Manager), Elaine Huckell
(Scrutiny Secretary)

Also Attending: Councillor Alan Sitkin (Cabinet Member for Economic
Regeneration and Business Development) and Councillor
Ahmet Oykenar (Cabinet Member for Housing and
Housing Regeneration)

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WELCOME & APOLOGIES

The Chair welcomed attendees to the meeting.

It was noted that Councillor Sarah Doyle was substituting for Councillor Abdullahi and Councillor Robert Hayward was substituting for Councillor Rye.

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DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

No declarations of interest were put forward.

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CALL-IN OF REPORT: MERIDIAN WATER: LAND ACQUISITION

The Chair moved this item for discussion under Part 2.

Councillor Levy referred to the previous call-in of the Cabinet Decision regarding: Meridian Water: Land Acquisition which was discussed at Overview

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and Scrutiny Committee on 25 May 2017, when the Committee unanimously agreed to confirm the Cabinet decision.

Councillor Levy explained that the Administration had now called-in the portfolio decision taken by the Cabinet Member for Economic Development and the Cabinet Member for Finance and Efficiency, to approve the overall viability of the Meridian Water scheme. The report had been called-in for the purposes of transparency and to enable the time-line of the scheme to be realised. It allowed for discussion of the key issues relating to viability of the scheme.

A response was provided by Councillor Sitkin, as relevant Cabinet member.

Discussions took place which focused on the financial viability of the proposed development including -

- The necessity for purchase of the Stonehill and Hastingwood sites in order to achieve the strategic vision for Meridian Water.
- The reputation and advice of parties advising the Council on viability of the scheme
- The on-going review of SIL (Strategic Industrial Land) by the GLA and the possible outcomes (scenarios) regarding the re-designation or not of land. The findings indicated that the scheme, including if necessary a reduced scheme, would still be viable.

Overview & Scrutiny Committee considered the reasons provided for the call-in and response provided by Councillor Sitkin. Having considered the information provided, the Committee voted to confirm the Portfolio decision:

Councillors Keazor, Doyle, Levy, Dogan and Robert Hayward all voted in favour of the decision, Councillor Smith abstained.

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EXCLUSION OF PRESS & PUBLIC

RESOLVED in accordance with the principles of Section 100A(4) of the Local Government Act 1972 to exclude the press and public 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 of the Part 1 of Schedule 12A to the Act (as amended by the Local Government (Access to Information) (Variation) Order 2006.

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PART 2 AGENDA CALL IN RE: MERIDIAN WATER LAND ACQUISITION

See item 3.

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Councillor Levy thanked everyone for attending this meeting.

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