MUNICIPAL YEAR 2018/2019 REPORT NO. 41

MEETING TITLE AND DATE:

Cabinet 25th July 2018

REPORT OF:

Executive Director Place

Contact officer and telephone number:

Sarah Cary: 0208 379 3500

E mail: sarah.cary@enfield.gov.uk

Agenda – Part: 1 Item: 11

Subject: Genotin Road Car Park,

Enfield Town

Wards: Town

Key Decision No: KD 4567

Cabinet Member consulted:

CIIr Ahmet Oykener

1. Executive Summary

- 1.1 This paper follows from a Cabinet report (no.93) on the strategy for Genotin Road Car Park in November 2017.
- 1.1.1 The Council and Metaswitch have engaged in discussions over the past 18 months as they have outgrown their existing premises. In an effort to retain Metaswitch in Enfield the Council and external agents undertook to identify a site within Enfield Town or in the vicinity for them to relocate to. Genotin Road Car Park is the only site that satisfies their space and time requirements.
- 1.1.2 Cabinet supported the retention of Metaswitch in the Borough and noted the development of a new office for them would support Enfield Town renewal and deliver positive outcomes for the whole borough.
- 1.1.3 Cabinet delegated authority to officers to progress final terms of the Option Agreement for the identified site of the Genotin Road Car Park. The delegation required a further report to Cabinet prior to any Option Agreement being entered into.
- 1.2 The aim of this report is for Cabinet to enable the Council to grant an institutional lease for, a grade A office building to Metaswitch Networks Limited and fund the development of that building, at an acceptable rate of return, whilst retaining this major employer and business in Enfield Town
- 1.3 This transaction will allow the company to bring forward a new Global headquarters building in Enfield. The development will be subject to planning committee approval.
- 1.4 Retaining a global company and major employer in the borough sends a clear message that the Council is 'open' for business. It also will give greater confidence to future occupiers whom we hope to attract to the Town Centre in light of the new Town Centre Framework Masterplan.

2. RECOMMENDATIONS

- 2.1 To delegate authority to the Executive Director Place in consultation with Executive Director Resources to agree Heads of Terms and enter into a contract on those terms for an agreement for lease, including arrangements for the funding of the development of an office on land known as Genotin Road Car Park. On completion of the development, Metaswitch will enter into a business lease for a minimum of 15 years. The Council will retain the freehold of the property. The car park will be made available for public use at the weekend and evenings
- 2.2 The contract (whether it be a development agreement, lease, or contract for sale) to be in a form approved by the Director of Law and Governance.

3. BACKGROUND

Context

3.1 Enfield Council's 2016/2018 business plan describes a goal for "Enfield is seen as a place for collaboration and innovation by the high tech and manufacturing sections" and secondly, "an environment in which businesses and community groups are able to survive, grow, thrive and actively contribute to the prosperity of the borough." The median gross weekly pay for full time workers in Enfield as a workplace was £548.80 in 2017 – the lowest in London (London median was £692.50) and therefore the maintenance and creation of high skilled and better paid job opportunities is a key priority. Further, since 2010, the council has experienced year on year funding reductions and at the same time increasing demographic and cost pressures. In this context, the council, continues to explore innovative ways to support the budget position to mitigate the impact on front line services. One such option is to increase the council income through the investment in revenue generating property assets.

This paper sets out the background and business case for retaining a key employer in the borough whilst generating net additional income to support the council's budget.

Metaswitch

3.2 Metaswitch Networks Ltd is an Enfield success story. The firm has been located in Enfield Town for approximately 36 years, founded in 1981 from an initial workforce of only 7 staff; it now has c400 employees in Enfield and over 800 worldwide. Metaswitch Networks Ltd is a global leading network software provider who provide technical support and software for over 1,000 network operators. It is funded by Sequoia, one of the world's leading technology investors and continues to trade well in the increasingly competitive technology

market. The company's headquarters are in Enfield, with offices in the; USA, Mexico, Hong Kong and Singapore. Metaswitch has an active apprenticeship programme, 60 summer interns; and high skilled employment we wish to retain and grow in our borough.

- 3.2 Metaswitch currently occupy three sites in the town centre, the largest being their Church Street office. They have outgrown their Church Street office, and with leases expiring on their other sites, Metaswitch approached Enfield Council about opportunities to remain in the town centre, grow their business, and consolidate into a new global headquarters building. Metaswitch's alternative global headquarters locations were Dublin, Belfast and Cambridge, where Metaswitch already have options. The November Cabinet Report describes the economic benefit of Metaswitch to the Town Centre (please see Appendix 1).
- 3.3 Following a review of site options with officers, in November 2017 Cabinet delegated authority for officers to progress an option agreement to either develop or sell the site of Genotin Road car park to Metaswitch for a new global headquarters office building. Other locations, such as the police car park, were discounted given space and time limitations. Members supported the principle of retention of Metaswitch in the borough and noted that there would be a detailed planning process on the detail of the development.
- 3.4 The process of progressing this option agreement into a specific proposal is detailed below.

3.4 Initial Cabinet Approval

3.4.1 On the 15th November 2017 the Cabinet agreed in principle to further work being undertaken in respect of pursuing the following two options;

Option 1: Freehold Disposal

A freehold disposal of the Genotin Car Park at Market Value. This value was
derived at the time by an external RICS Registered Valuer and was based
upon a residential scheme that would provide the Council a higher return as
opposed to the land value for an office development.

Option 2: Investment

• The Council agrees to finance the development of the Office once Metaswitch decides to enter into a 125 year development lease. The Council would charge a ground rent equivalent to the loss of car parking income during the development period. On completion the development agreement would be replaced by an institutional lease for a minimum of 15 years. The Council would retain the freehold of the property. This would result in the car park being available for public use at the weekends and some evenings, the maintenance and cost of running the car park would be liable to the tenant.

See Part 2 for further detail of the initial options.

- 3.4.2 Option 2 was considered more favourable for the Council as it would retain partial control of the parking provision at the weekends and some evenings. The Council would also benefit from long term income and would have the ability to sell the asset on the open market in the future.
- 3.4.3 As described in the November Cabinet minutes, approval to proceed with option agreements was seen as a rare opportunity to retain a key business in the Borough and support the creation of a global HQ building in the borough. Furthermore, support for the scheme would highlight Enfield Council's commitment to business and economic development in the Borough whilst forming part of the regeneration of Enfield Town. The retention and expansion of Metaswitch in the borough was viewed as providing economic benefits for the wider Enfield business community. Finally, the expansion was viewed as a potential catalyst for further employment development in the Town Centre.
- 3.4.4 Following this initial proposal considered in November there has been ongoing activity namely:
 - the Town Centre Framework Masterplan has been agreed and a further car parking analysis has been undertaken (3.5 below)
 - the heads of terms continue to be negotiated and revised (3.6 and 3.7)
 - due diligence on the options has been carried out

This work is detailed in the sections below.

3.5 Since the Initial Cabinet Approval – Town Centre Framework Masterplan

- 3.5.1 Enfield Council adopted a Town Centre Framework Masterplan in March 2018. This describes how the town centre could adapt and develop to meet the current and future needs of the borough. This outlines short and medium-term development plans to support the health of the town centre, across office, shopping, residential and leisure uses. This Masterplan identifies the Genotin Road car park site as a short-term development opportunity for mixed-use development to strengthen the economy of the town. It describes public realm improvements and the potential access relationships of the car park site to adjacent sites.
- 3.5.2 To inform the Town Centre Framework Masterplan, an Enfield Town Parking Strategy was prepared for the Council by Alan Baxter Limited. This publicly available analysis indicates that even with the full loss of Genotin Road car park (122 spaces, 7% of parking in the Town Centre), the remaining parking supply in the Town Centre would have significant spare car parking capacity at the busiest times during typical conditions. However, seasonal Christmas Saturday shopping parking demand would exceed supply. The development agreement, described below and in the Part 2 report, includes for the Metaswitch car park to be available for public use on weekends and some evenings, and we are revising the feasibility of further opening of the Civic Centre car parking for public use.
- 3.5.3 The November cabinet requested officers to explore the feasibility of opening Portcullis car park to the public. After initial investigations, officers believe

Portcullis would need significant upgrading works, including improving access (it is currently one-way) to be suitable as public car park. This option is not being brought forward. However, expanding Civic Centre public parking at weekends and seasonal periods does seem feasible. A full car parking strategy for the borough is underway and will be brought forward soon, including a review of faith and evening parking in the Town Centre. Timings indicate that concerns around Enfield Town's parking supply and equalities can be resolved in time for planning determination, where transport impacts are appropriately considered.

3.6 Since the Initial Cabinet Approval – Discussions with Metaswitch

- 3.6.1 Metaswitch and council officers have been in productive negotiations since November to progress financing the development of a new headquarters office.
- 3.6.2 Metaswitch proceeded at risk to develop plans for their office. In January 2018 they appointed a developer through a formal procurement process resulting in Stoford Developments as the nominated developer. Stoford Developments subsequently produced architectural designs in conjunction with an architect and pre- planning application discussions have commenced including a public meeting on the design proposals.
- 3.6.3 The proposed development constitutes a new office development for Metaswitch Networks Ltd as well as employee car parking spaces. The development terms include for the employee car parking spaces to be made available to the public at the weekend and selected evenings.
- 3.6.3 During April and May 2018, Cushman & Wakefield (appointed agents to Metaswitch/Stoford) approached the Council seeking to agree terms based on the financing of the development.
- 3.6.4 The Council have appointed GVA to provide advice on the structure. In June, outline terms were agreed with Metaswitch on the following basis.

3.7 Proposal and Structure – Recommended

- 3.7.1 The original proposal for an option agreement has now fallen away as both parties would prefer certainty of a single choice agreement. The recommendation is now for the council to contract with Metaswitch to finance the development of a grade A office building and then enter a minimum 15-year lease for Metaswitch to occupy the building. This is a more favourable option than the 125 year lease proposed in November 2017 as this council retains ownership of the building as an investment property.
- 3.7.1 It is proposed that the Council will enter Heads of Terms and subsequently into an agreement with Metaswitch Networks Limited, comprising an Agreement for Lease and potentially a separate agreement. Subject to certain conditions being fulfilled, Metaswitch will appoint the Developer (Stoford) to arrange for the construction of the new office building and the Council will finance this (subject to certain conditions). The Council and Metaswitch will enter into an Agreement for

Lease in which the form of the new Lease will be agreed and will be entered into following Practical Completion of the development

- 3.7.2 Conditional Exchange of principal agreement is anticipated in summer 2018 with an Unconditional Exchange taking place just ahead of commencement of construction in Autumn 2018. Conditionality will include planning and tendering of the main building contract. Practical Completion is anticipated to take place in Autumn 2020.
- 3.7.3 The agreement requires Metaswitch to design a 'Grade A' office which is of high quality and can be easily used by other tenants. This supports the council's financial investment, enabling the building to be leased to other tenants at the end of Metaswitch's lease should they vacate.
- 3.7.4 With regards to car parking, Metaswitch's consolidation will includes a reduction in staff car parking per head from their current provision. Also, the Heads of Terms agreement terms include a requirement for the car park associated with the Metaswitch development to be available for public use during evenings and weekends. We intend for the detail of these arrangements, including alignment with council parking strategy on charging and access, to be agreed as part of the Agreement for Lease.
- 3.7.5 Following financial due diligence, option 2 to develop the site, maximises the financial return for the council.

Please see section 6 of this report for details of the due diligence compiled on the proposed deal.

See Part 2 report for detail of the proposed deal.

3.8 The Development

Construction of the proposed office building will be subject to planning processes including approval by committee.

4. ALTERNATIVE OPTIONS CONSIDERED

- 4.1 Not seeking retain Metaswitch Networks Ltd in the Town Centre is likely to see Metaswitch relocate outside the borough. This would result in the loss of c400 jobs, c£630,000 spend in the Town Centre by staff, and a lost opportunity to enhance the Town Centre.
- 4.2 Alternative locations for a new Metaswitch office were considered in Autumn 2017. These locations, (e.g. Civic Centre, Police Station, occupation across several locations) were discounted as they did not meet Metaswitch's time and space requirements. Please see Appendix 1 for more detail. Several of these options would also result in the Council losing out on a valuable property investment opportunity.

4.2 A further option which retains Metaswitch in the town centre is to sell the car park land freehold to Metaswitch, who will finance the proposed office development separately. This results in a one-off cash receipt of to the council. Officers do not recommend this as it harms the Council's ability to shape the Town Centre over time as well as loses out on a valuable property investment opportunity.

5. REASONS FOR RECOMMENDATIONS

- 5.1 The development of a new grade A office building and pre-letting to a local business represents a solid financial investment opportunity for the Council. The Council will receive ongoing rental income significantly above the car park income and make a reasonable return on the expenditure to build the development.
- 5.2 It also retains a key business in the borough and support the expansion of a significant employer to create a global HQ building in the London Borough of Enfield. The development of the car park and use as an office is supported by the Town Centre Framework Masterplan, and could help act as a catalyst for further employment development in the Town Centre.

6. COMMENTS OF THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR OF RESOURCES AND OTHER DEPARTMENTS

6.1 Financial Implications and Due Diligence

- 6.1.1 Following the 15th November 2017 Cabinet report, financial due diligence has been undertaken on the proposals to enable the retention of a major employer and business in Enfield Town and the Council to bring forward an office development on the Genotin Road car park site for the company's new global & European headquarters building.
- 6.1.2 The Council currently receives an income from the existing car park. This income would be lost should the site be disposed of or if the site was given an alternative use. However, the lost income would be replaced by a lease rent for an office building (funded by the Council) significantly above the car park income.
- 6.1.3 Our Professional Advisers (GVA) have undertaken IRR (internal rate of return) analysis using their professional industry expertise; and provided their professional view on this deal comparable with other similar deals. See Part 2.
- 6.1.4 The council finance team have undertaken a NPV (net present value) cost benefit calculation of three options:
 - Base case no change, retain the land as a car park
 - Option 1: sell the land for redevelopment to Metaswitch Networks
 - Option 2: the proposed Heads of Terms:
 - 15 years post construction
 - 40 years post-construction.

See Part 2 for details.

- 6.1.5 The due diligence workstreams to support this cost benefit analysis include: consideration of our professional adviser's views; capital investment appraisal using net present value calculation; implications on the council's annual revenue budget and capital budget.
- 6.1.6 In addition, an assessment of the financial standing of Metaswitch and an assessment of the impact of the loss of the Genotin Road car park on the council's overall car parking income has been undertaken and integrated into all the council's modelling.
- 6.1.7 All developments include a level of risk, key assumptions within the financial models include 1) value of the building in the future and 2) assume that the building is let once built able to be let in the future. These risks are mitigated by taking prudent assumptions in our approach to the financial due diligence. For example, all the models (GVA and the council cashflow) have included the value of the land, this is an opportunity cost rather than an actual cash cost.
- 6.1.8 This modelling has been undertaken using the draft heads of terms, although these are not expected to materially change, due diligence will be repeated on the final heads of terms. The outcome of this due diligence is set out below.
- 6.1.9 In conclusion, financial due diligence indicates that the highest financial return arises from Option C development of the land to rent to Metaswitch. There are risks with any such development, however these risks need to be viewed alongside the qualitative benefits. This is summarised in this simple cost benefit table. (Refer to part 2 for the supporting details of the calculations included in this table and additional financial due diligence such as the annual revenue implications and financial standing of Metaswitch.)

6.1.10 Cost benefit table

	Base Case Retain car park	Option 1: Sell land to Metaswitch	Option 2: Develop land and rent building to Metaswitch
NPV (17 years)	£4.720m	£1.719m	£5.738m
			(£9.682m excluding notional
			interest and land)
NPV (42 years)	£8.147m	£0.862m	£10.780m
			(£14.723m excluding notional
			interest and land)
Balance sheet			The Council will own an "A class"
impact			office building – potential for future
			uses include, renting, council
			offices and housing conversion.
			This needs to be balanced against
			any risk that the building may not
			be lettable.

Benefits to No change in existing Metaswitch is key employer with a economic benefit from existing highly skilled workforce of over 400 economic employees of which 200 live sustainability users continuing to access and town centre. locally. employment and town centre Impact on employment and Further Metaswitch aims to town centre is dependent on increase their workforce based at the likelihood that Metaswitch Enfield: the Genotin Road site Network will seek to move out would be the Headquarters of this of Enfield and the town centre. international company. Commitment to Business and Economic development in the Borough whilst forming part of the regeneration of Enfield Town. The economic benefit to the town would increase as Metaswitch moved staff into the new building

6.2 Legal Implications

6.2.1 By Section 123 of the Local Government Act 1972 ("S.123 of the LGA") and Section 1 of the Localism Act 2011 the Council has the power to dispose of land in any manner it wishes, subject to certain conditions.

and expanded.

- 6.2.2 The Council has a statutory duty to obtain the best price reasonably obtainable, subject to certain exemptions.
- 6.2.3 State aid rules in relation to the disposal of land require (unless other exemptions apply) the disposal to be at market value and (in these circumstances) an independent valuation. There has been no bidding or auction procedure here, so the Council must ensure market value by benchmarking or another assessment method. This can be by way of obtaining an independent valuation. The Council may not take into account benefits that it might receive from the disposal of the land that would not be of benefit to a private sector seller. Accordingly, any wider regeneration or social benefits of the transaction cannot be factored into the valuation. As noted above, GVA has provided advice to the Council in relation to whether the proposed arrangements equate to market value.
- 6.2.4 In accordance with the Council's Property Procedure Rules the inclusion of property on the disposals programme requires approval either by the appropriate Cabinet member or by Cabinet itself.
- 6.2.5 The Property Procedure Rules require all disposals to be made on a competitive basis, unless justified and approved otherwise.

- 6.2.6 In this particular case, as the intended transaction is to be on a non-competitive basis, a valuation report will be required in order to justify the disposal on the terms proposed, and in particular that it achieves best value.
- 6.2.7 The Public Contracts Regulations 2015 (the Regulations) require the Council to follow the competitive tendering procedures set out in the Regulations when procuring contracts for services, works and supplies over specified thresholds. Contracts for the disposal of land are specifically excluded from the Regulations and it is proposed that the transaction is structured so that it is a disposal of land which does not amount to a works or services contract requiring a competitive tendering procedure under the Regulations.
- 6.2.8 It is proposed that the transaction is structured with the intention that it is a disposal of land which does not amount to a works or services contract requiring a competitive tendering procedure under the Regulations. In order to do so, under Option C the Council would enter into one or more agreements with Metaswitch (as appropriate, following further legal advice), including an agreement for lease, and Metaswitch would have a primary contractual relationship with Stoford for development of a new office building.
- 6.2.9 Final legal implications are also reserved pending receipt of full and final Heads of Terms.

6.3 Property Implications

- 6.3.1 External consultants (GVA Grimley) have undertaken valuations that estimate the market value of the land at the Genotin Road.
- 6.3.2 The Council is of the opinion that the disposal is in line with the Council Property Procedure Rules and the Council have obtained best value under s123 of the LGA (1972); the valuation received confirms the price offered for the land.

7. PERFORMANCE MANAGEMENT IMPLICATIONS

The legal agreements will have deadlines and dates for both Metaswitch and the Council to adhere to and will be managed accordingly.

8. KEY RISKS

See Part 2 report for detail.

8.1 All developments include a level of risk, key assumptions within the financial models include 1) value of the building in the future and 2) assume that the building is let once built able to be let in the future. These risks are mitigated by taking prudent assumptions in our approach to the financial due diligence. For example, all the models (GVA and the council cashflow) have included the value of the land, this is an opportunity cost rather than an actual cash cost.

9. IMPACT ON COUNCIL PRIORITIES

- 9.1 Fairness for All By retaining Metaswitch Networks in the Borough, families are not uprooted and moved and the local economy is not damaged with the long term future of Enfield Town secured.
- 9.2 Growth and Sustainability The development of the office and global headquarters building will confirm to stakeholders that Enfield supports opportunity creation and job retention and is business friendly, which will lead to onward supply chains seeking to relocate to Enfield thereby creating jobs and prosperity.
- 9.3 Strong Communities Metaswitch are a community company with over half of the workforce residing in Enfield. The company are charitable with donations to local charities and hospices high on their agenda every year. Together this company has been part of Enfield since it's conception.

10. EQUALITIES IMPACT ASSESSMENT

- 10.1 The council has a vision to create a fairer future for all by promoting social and economic equality in an economically vibrant borough.
- 10.2 The retention of a key employer providing highly skilled and secure work in our borough supports this ambition.
- 10.3 In formulating the specific recommendations of this report the potential impact on the equalities has been taken into account, including people identified as having protected characteristics.
- 10.4 There are 10 blue/brown badgeholders spaces in Genotin Road car park, mitigations will be taken into account in the design and planning stages.

11. PUBLIC HEALTH IMPLICATIONS

The reduction in car parking spaces will have a positive impact on public health through less reliance on short car journeys and use of alternative modes of transport including walking and cycling.

12. HR IMPLICATIONS

Delivering this development scheme within the tight time constraints together with various other complex projects and schemes in the pipeline will require additional resources, initially will be met from within existing sources, however specialist areas where delivery is concerned may need to be met from external sources.

13 OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY

A draft of this report was presented to Overview and Scrutiny on 12 June 2018, as pre-scrutiny process. The report was substantially revised to reflect the

matters raised. The following section details how scrutiny concerns have been considered in the revised report.

- 1. It is understood from the report that the preferred option for the Council is Option 1. Is this correct and are Metaswitch definitely on board for this option?
 - Yes, see Section 3.6 and 3.7
- 2. Why do you think it is the best option for the Council to fund this for Metaswitch?
 - This is the most financially favourable option, see Section 6
- 3. Are the Council going to manage this project?
 - Only with regards to financing, see Section 3.7 for detail
- 4. Why would you dispose of an asset, i.e. the car park which generates approximately £200,000 in income per year? We are meant to be encouraging more foot-fall into Enfield Town so why would you dispose of a car park?
 - See Section 6 and Section 3.5.
- 5. What are the long-term plan/implications? What is the forward plan if in 15/20 years Metaswitch leave Enfield?
 - See Section 3.7.3
- 6. Who will get the income if Metaswitch decide to rent out the car park in the evenings and at weekends?
 - This is still under negotiation with Metaswitch. For prudency's sake we
 have assumed in the cost benefit analysis that the Council's car
 parking income reduces by 25%. Please see Part 2 for detail.
- 7. Has a cost analysis been done on what Metaswitch employees currently spend in Enfield Town? Can we see details of the Cost Benefit Analysis that have been undertaken?
 - This was undertaken to inform the November cabinet. See Appendix 1
- 8. What are the options for Metaswitch funding this deal themselves?
 - This is not a preferred option by either party however we have analysed this option, see 6.1.10 "sell the land".
- 9. Will Metaswitch be covering the loss to the Council for future car park charges?
 - No, Metaswitch will not be specifically covering the reduction in car parking income. However, overall the financial due diligence shows that the rental income will exceed the estimated car park income losses. Customers will park in other town centre car parks. The cost benefit analysis in Section 6 assumes that the council will loose some of the income, see Part 2 for detail.
- 10. Why is there no Equalities Impact Assessment included in the report? It was felt that the proposed build would have a huge impact on the community and local residents as well as local faith communities who regularly use the car park at times of worship.
 - See Section 10 and 3.5.3
- 11. Are we as a Council being driven by what Metaswitch want or are we doing this as it really is what's best for the Council?
 - See Appendix 1 as well as Section 3.1, Section 3.3 and Section 6
- 12. Further concrete evidence should be included in the report to Cabinet on what other car parking will be made available for use in Enfield (e.g. schools etc). Convincing and specific information is required.
 - See Section 3.6.3 and 3.7.4

- 13.We are making assumptions about how much Metaswitch contribute to the viability of the Town Centre. Again specific and concrete evidence is required.
- See Section 3.10 to 3.20 in the Appendix 1, as well as 3.1 and 3.2
 14.Cost Benefit Analysis figures should be included in the Part 2 report to Cabinet.
 - See Section 6 and the Part 2 report for an expanded version.
- 15. What will be the impact on businesses in Enfield given the number of empty shops should the Genotin Road car park close?
 - Should the car park close, there will be very limited impact. Analysis done for the Town Centre Framework Masterplan shows the remaining parking supply is appropriate. A separate survey of town centre users indicated that 80% of users come by non-car modes. For detail, please see Section 3.5.2 and the parking analysis available at: https://new.enfield.gov.uk/services/planning/planning-policy/master-plans/

BACKGROUND PAPERS

Appendix 1- November Cabinet Report