

Part 1: Reason why decision is being called in:

The Opposition seeks to call in Part 1 and Part 2 of the report on Meridian Works Site One: Authority to sign key agreements to enable project delivery, KD 4796 for the following reasons;

1. The proposal to charge the company a lower than market rent doesn't comply with the Property Procedure Rules and therefore required the Leader of the Council's authorisation.

As stated in the Property Implications, it is correct that the proposal to charge the company with a lower than market rent does not comply with the PPR's Market Value requirement and this means that the letting cannot be signed off by Property Services under standard delegated procedures. The report confirms that Property Services recognise the Meridian Water team's position in stating that there are wider economic and social benefits to the proposed letting, which can be considered outside of the Council's PPRs but are still within the legal framework of s.123 the Local Government Act 1972. Therefore, in order to obtain the appropriate authority to proceed with this letting, the proposal to let to Building BloQs has required approval from the Leader of the Council by way of a Portfolio decision report. The body of the report is very clear in outlining the economic benefits associated with the proposal.