

RECOMMENDATIONS TO COUNCIL ON 28 JULY 2016
FROM CABINET ON 28 JUNE 2016

CAB27: RIPA POLICY REVIEW

Cabinet considered a report which reminded Members that the Policy and the associated procedures were intended to ensure that investigations undertaken by the Council were conducted in accordance with the requirements of Regulation of Investigatory Powers Act 2000 (RIPA). RIPA ensured that when the Council needed to use covert investigation techniques, which by their very nature they were placed on a legitimate footing and that appropriate controls were put in place to ensure that the activities were properly controlled and monitored.

It should be noted that these powers were only available in more serious cases and where other investigative methods are not appropriate or have been unsuccessful. The revised Policy captured only the broad principles behind RIPA and general responsibilities of the Council, whereas the finer details, including interpretation of the legislation and the procedure itself, were recorded in separate procedure documents, namely the toolkits.

It was noted that the powers were very rarely used by the Authority, but it was required that the Policy was updated in accordance with changes to legislation and guidance.

In response to questions from Members the Chief Executive confirmed that the Policy had been considerably slimmed down, and that permission for the use of RIPA was an officer delegation.

RECOMMENDED: That the revised RIPA Policy be adopted.

EXEMPT ITEMS

CAB35: TOWN CENTRE INVESTMENT (PHASE 1)

Cabinet considered that report which outlined an important investment opportunity for the Council in King's Lynn town centre. The proposal would strengthen the Council's investment yield on the identified property and help to enhance the retail offer within the town whilst enhancing the Council's revenue income and therefore contribute to savings required as part of the Cost Reduction programme.

Under Standing Order 34, Councillor Pope asked questions on the financing arrangements set out in the report which were responded to.

It was agreed to provide that information as a supplement for members.

Councillor Bambridge chose not to ask any questions.

RECOMMENDED: 1) That the Property Services Manager be given the delegated authority to finalise negotiations in respect of the proposed investment outlined within

this report in consultation with the Leader of the Council, the Portfolio Holder for Regeneration and Industrial Assets, the Chief Executive, the Executive Director Commercial Services, and the Chief Finance Officer.

2) That Delegated authority be given to the Portfolio Holder for Regeneration and Industrial Assets in consultation with the Chief Executive and the Chief Finance Officer to decide the appropriate means of funding the investment proposal set out within this report.

3) That the Legal Services Manager be given delegated authority to draft and finalise all necessary documentation, contractual or otherwise, associated with the proposed development and investment in this property asset.

CAB36: TOWN CENTRE INVESTMENT - STRATEGIC LAND AND PROPERTY ACQUISITION (PHASE 2)

A report was considered which outlined an important opportunity for the Council in respect of a potential property acquisition in King's Lynn town centre. The proposal would allow the Council the opportunity to deal with a problematic building in King's Lynn and be able to look at a potential redevelopment scheme that would help to strengthen the retail offer and/or residential offer within the town.

Cabinet Members supported the proposed acquisition, negotiations for which were still ongoing, explanations were given on levels of borrowing set against the asset base.

Under Standing Order 34, Councillor Pope asked questions on the financing arrangements set out in the report which were responded to.

Councillor Bambridge chose not to ask any questions.

RECOMMENDED: 1) That the acquisition of the land and property asset is progressed along the lines set out within the report.

2) That the Capital Programme be adjusted to accommodate the acquisition of the site identified within this report.

3) That Property Services Manager be given the delegated authority to finalise negotiations in respect of the proposed acquisition outlined within this report in consultation with the Portfolio Holder for Regeneration and Industrial Assets.

4) That Legal Services Manager be given delegated authority to draft and finalise all necessary documentation, contractual or otherwise, associated with the proposed development and investment in this property asset.