

## MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE CABINET HELD ON TUESDAY 25 SEPTEMBER 2001

**MEMBERS:** Councillors **Doug Taylor** (Leader), **Roger Buckley** (Deputy Leader), **Brian Grayston** (Education), **Bernadette Lappage** (Social Services), **Andrew Stafford** (Corporate Support Services), **Betty Costello** (Environment), *Bambos Charalambous* (Leisure), **Lyn Romain** (Housing), **Del Goddard** (Regeneration and Social Inclusion), **Phill Sowter** (Without Portfolio).

*Italics denotes absence.*

**Deputies also present:**

Councillors Chris Murphy (Deputy, Leisure) and Chris Cole (Deputy, Housing).

**Officers:**

Chief Executive, Director of Environmental Services, Acting Director of Leisure Services (for item 9 onwards), Interim Director of Social Services, Director of Resources, Assistant Director of Environmental Services – Community Protection, Assistant Director of Resources – Property, Joint Commissioner - Learning Difficulties – Social Services Group, Community Enforcement Manager – Environmental Services Group, Group Manager – Environmental Services, Democratic Services Manager and Cabinet Secretary.

### **22. BROOMFIELD HOUSE, STABLE BLOCK AND HISTORIC PARK**

Councillor Doug Taylor (Leader) introduced the report of the Director of Resources (No.121), circulated at the meeting, providing an up-date on the progress to establish a viable community based restoration for Broomfield House, stable block and the general park environment. The report sought Member views upon a number of matters which were cross referenced throughout the report.

NOTED

1. the actions proposed by the Director of Resources under the scheme of delegation which would specifically include:
  - (a) to confirm the Council's intention to seek a solution involving mixed community uses for the House;
  - (b) to proceed to a preferred solution for the stable block, namely;
    - (i) to grant a lease to Radiomathon as per paragraph 5.12.1;
    - or** (ii) to grant a lease to Radiomathon as per paragraph 5.12.2;
    - or** (iii) to market generally inviting offers for a 99 year lease for appropriate uses.
  - (c) to confirm expenditure (the reserved contribution from the Repairs and Maintenance fund) of £200,000 to the stable block repair;
  - (d) to explore the utilisation of the cottages in the stable yard as funding support for the overall scheme.

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2. the annual revenue support options/uses being explored for the House;
3. that demolition of the historic structures was not an option being considered;
4. the proposals for modification of the covenants in accordance with the format agreed by local community groups to protect the community.;
5. the recommended action with regard to the Stable Block as detailed in the report. Councillor Doug Taylor (Leader) outlined the extensive discussions which had taken place on the proposed use of the Stable Block by Radiomathon and the various options for leasing the property for the intended community use;
6. the funding issues in relation to the restoration of the House and the Stable Block as detailed in the report. Funding possibilities for the restoration of the House were outlined and could include a mixture of capital contribution from the Council, funding from the Heritage Lottery Fund and fund raising activities. Such issues would require further detailed discussions. The Heritage Lottery Fund had stated that the House and the Stable Block should be considered separately, it would not be possible for any investment in the Stable Block to be used as a match funding contribution to the restoration of the House;
7. that further discussions would be required on the way forward for the restoration of the House and the allocation of resources. The required capital contribution would need to be considered as part of the Council's overall capital programme priorities. It was recognised that the Council would need to take some action and that a commercial option for the restoration of the House was not a viable option. An early decision would be required. It would be necessary to put the Council's aspirations for Broomfield House in the context of a strategic approach to the Council's other historical buildings. A further report on the proposals for Broomfield House would need to be presented to a future meeting of the Cabinet for consideration.

**DECISION:** The Director of Resources, in consultation with the Councillor Doug Taylor (Leader of the Council) and the Assistant Director of Resources – Property, would agree, following further discussion, the matters detailed below under delegated action by the required deadline of Monday 8 October 2001:

1. To agree the preferred solution to proceed for the stable block, as detailed in 1(b) above.
2. If necessary in the light of 1 above, to confirm expenditure (the reserved contribution from the Repairs and Maintenance fund) of £200,000 to the stable block repair.

**DECISION:** The Director of Resources, having taken account of the views expressed by the Cabinet, approved under delegated action the following:

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1. To explore the utilisation of the cottages in the stable yard as funding support for the overall scheme. (The results of the exploration would be subject to further consideration in the light of the outcome of discussions on the future proposals for Broomfield House).

**Reason:** To enable the Council to seek to establish a viable community based restoration for the stable block.

(Exempt information – paragraphs 7 and 9 of Schedule 12A).