

BIRMINGHAM CITY COUNCIL

ECONOMY, SKILLS & TRANSPORT O&S COMMITTEE –

PUBLIC MEETING

**1.00PM hours on 7th January 2019, Committee Room 6, Council House –
Action Notes**

Present:

Councillor Tahir Ali (Chair)

Councillors John Clancy, Fred Grindrod, Simon Morrall, Julien Pritchard and Lou Robson

Also Present:

Councillor Ian Ward, Leader

Councillor Robert Alden

Kathryn James, Assistant Director (Interim) of Property

Philip Andrews, Head of Operational Property Management

Baseema Begum, Research & Policy Officer

Rose Kiely, Group Overview & Scrutiny Manager

1. NOTICE OF RECORDING

The Chairman advised the meeting to note that members of the press/public may record and take photographs.

2. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

Councillor Robson declared an interest as an employee of the Heritage Lottery Fund.
Cllr Alden declared that his wife works for the Birmingham Museums Trust.

3. APOLOGIES

Councillors Ken Wood and Phil Davis.

4. REQUEST FOR CALL-IN: COUNCIL HOUSE COMPLEX WORKS - PHASE 3A

(See document No. 1)

Cllr Alden clarified the reasons for the call-in and made the following specific points:-

- Not objecting to principle of the option chosen as the City Council has budgetary pressures but concern is the lack of information and the cost implication of delaying the work.
- The electrical testing that has been carried out shows that it does not meet the current standard and is unsatisfactory. There are no details reporting when testing was carried out and the condition of it. Before work is carried out the size of the problem and the appropriate fix needs to be put in place to avoid further costs and issues in the future (for example in having to move staff).
- Concern also on the decision to empty the Council House Extension (Margaret St) and dispose of it as the original proposal was that staff from the Council House could potentially use this if needed. Instead of selling a long-lease other options (for instance museum conservation and storages) should be considered as it is a listed building and it should be kept for public use.
- The request to dispose of the Council House Extension was not taken to the Cross-Party working group set up for this purpose and the issue has not been discussed.
- No clear vision or plan on the Council House Complex going forward – this is needed before the disposal of the Council House Extension and therefore recommend removal of disposal of the Extension from the report.
- Any long-term redevelopment work should be discussed with the working group.

The Leader, Councillor Ian Ward responded:-

- The proposition is complicated however need as much consensus as possible.
- Any electrical work undertaken will comply with legislation. The work on the Cabinet report overtook the work of the Cross-Party working group.
- Reconfiguration of the Museum Trust as detailed in section 3.16 of the report has been done in consultation with Museum. The Extension is not their preferred option and may not be suitable for their requirements.
- A working group on the refurbishment of the Council House will be re-purposed and will meet on 18th January. Further discussion can take place there on the future use of the Council House complex and disposal recommendations.
- A further report will be presented to Cabinet before any decisions are made including delegation of authority.

RESOLVED:-

- 1) Further to the Leader offering more discussion on the future of the Council House Complex at the cross-party working group meeting on 18th January Cllr Alden took the decision to withdraw his request to call-in the decision made.

5. REQUEST(S) FOR CALL-IN/COUNCILLOR CALL FOR ACTION/PETITIONS RECEIVED (IF ANY)

None.

6. OTHER URGENT BUSINESS

None.

7. AUTHORITY TO CHAIRMAN AND OFFICERS

Agreed.

RESOLVED:-

That in an urgent situation between meetings the Chair, jointly with the relevant Chief Officer, has authority to act on behalf of the Committee.

The meeting finished at 13:33 hours.