

SPECIAL COMMITTEE

MONDAY, 27 NOVEMBER 2017

PRESENT:- Councillors David Renard (Chair), Steve Allsopp, Fionuala Foley, Jim Grant, Cathy Martyn, Des Moffatt, Stan Pajak, Garry Perkins, Kevin Small, Oliver Donachie and Mary Martin.

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors Brian Ford and Russell Holland (Vice-Chair).

8. Declarations of Interest

The Chair reminded Members of the need to declare any known interests in any matters to be considered at the meeting.

9. Minutes

Resolved –That the minutes of the meeting held on 19th July 2017 be confirmed and signed as a correct record.

10. Public Question Time

There were no public questions.

11. Wichelstowe Joint Venture - Governance Arrangements

Further to Minute 54 of the Cabinet, and Minute 59 of the Council, both regarding the proposed governance arrangements for the Wichelstowe Joint Venture, the Special Committee received a report inviting consideration of the appointment of Council representatives to the Wichelstowe Joint Venture Board.

It was noted that this matter had been the subject of a motion at Council which had proposed that the Council's representatives on the Joint Venture Board should be the Chief Executive, the Corporate Director, Resources and Growth, and the Director of Finance (S151 Officer). However, in response to concerns raised by the Labour Group at the meeting regarding the appointment of only non-elected representatives to the Board, and, in particular, matters of oversight and the potential for conflict of interest, Council agreed that, in order to allow for a more considered discussion of the proposal, and given the time constraints for the establishment of the Joint Venture Board, the matter of the appointment of representatives should be deferred for determination by the Special Committee.

The report offered additional explanation of the motion put at the Council meeting, advising that, since the work to be undertaken by the Board at this early stage would be of a, primarily, technical and professional nature, it was felt that officers would be better placed to respond. The meeting was also advised that there would be a significant time commitment during normal office hours, as with any commercial venture at commencement, and that it was felt this might place undue burdens on Councillors and their own employment commitments. Consequently, in order to expedite delivery of the Joint Venture, officer representation was considered to be most expedient and appropriate, at least in the initial stages. There was an

assurance in the report that this arrangement would be kept under review and that, in the interim, the responsible Cabinet Member would will retain political accountability and kept fully briefed.

Resolved – (1) That the Chief Executive, the Corporate Director, Resources and Growth, and the Director of Finance (S151 Officer) be appointed as the Council's representatives on the Wichelstowe Joint Venture Board,

(2) That, in response to members' comments at the meeting, arrangements be made for the Leader of the Council and the Leader of the Labour Group to attend a briefing meeting with the Cabinet Member for Strategic Planning and Sustainability on the detail of the draft Joint Venture Agreement and Business Plan.

(3) That the Council's representation on the Joint venture Board be reviewed at the Annual council meeting in May 2018.