
Economy and Property Committee

MINUTES of the Meeting held in the Council Chamber, Swale House, East Street, Sittingbourne, ME10 3HT on Tuesday, 17 December 2024 from 7.00 pm - 7.26 pm.

PRESENT: Councillors Monique Bonney (Chair), Hayden Brawn, Ann Cavanagh, Shelley Cheesman, Simon Clark, Alex Eyre, Peter Marchington, Lee-Anne Moore, Sarah Stephen (Vice-Chair), Terry Thompson, Mark Tucker and Ashley Wise.

PRESENT (VIRTUALLY): Councillor Lloyd Chapman.

OFFICERS PRESENT: Martyn Cassell, Joanne Johnson, Inger Lorraine and Kellie MacKenzie.

APOLOGIES: Councillors Roger Clark and Elliott Jayes.

507 **Emergency Evacuation Procedure**

The Chair outlined the emergency evacuation procedure.

508 **Minutes**

The Minutes of the Meeting held on 23 July 2024 (Minute Nos. 117 – 127) were taken as read, approved and signed by the Chair as a correct record.

509 **Declarations of Interest**

No interests were declared.

510 **Scheme of Delegation - proposed changes relating to the Economy and Property Committee**

The Head of Place introduced the report which set out the rationale for proposed changes to the Scheme of Delegation in relation to the Economy and Property Committee (part 2.8 of the Constitution) and asked Members to recommend the changes to Full Council.

The Chair moved the recommendation, which was seconded by Councillor Ashley Wise.

Recommended:

(1) That Full Council (via the Constitution Working Group) consider the proposed changes to the Scheme of Delegation as set out in Appendix I of the report.

511 **Sheerness Revival (Levelling Up Fund (LUF)) - Masters House contract award**

The Capital Programme Manager introduced the report which summarised the procurement process and its results and sought approval to instruct the recommended contractor for alterations and refurbishment of obsolete garages at Masters' House, Sheerness.

The Chair proposed the recommendation, which was seconded by Councillor Hayden Brawn.

The Chair invited comments from Members, which included:

- Company 'B' offered the best quality score at a competitive price and it would be commonsense to award the contract to them; and
- could the contractor be asked to engage with the company 'Ethical Consumer' regarding sourcing ethical materials for the project?.

Councillor Terry Thompson moved the following amendment: That the contractor be strongly encouraged to engage with Ethical Consumer. This was seconded by Councillor Mark Tucker and agreed by Members.

Resolved:

(1) That the appointment of Company 'B' for the alterations and refurbishment of obsolete garages at Masters' House, Sheerness at a value of £329,730 exc. VAT be approved, and that the contractor be strongly encouraged to engage with Ethical Consumer.

512 Beach Hut Tender

The Head of Environment and Leisure introduced the report which summarised the tender process and recommended the appointment of a contractor for phase 1 of the beach hut developments at Minster Leas and Leysdown.

The Chair proposed the recommendation, which was seconded by Councillor Sarah Stephen.

Resolved:

(1) That the appointment of Company B for completion of Lot 1 at a sum of £202,719.55 be approved.

513 Sheerness Revival (LUF) - Beachfields contract award

The Capital Programme Manager introduced the report which summarised the procurement process and recommended a contractor to deliver the Levelling Up Funded Sheerness Revival Beachfields and public realm projects, subject to the final contract value being within the available budget, and to appropriate due diligence.

The Chair commended and thanked the officers for the report.

In response to a query from a Member about sustainability standards, the Chair explained that the project was mainly a retrofit and outdoor facility. The Capital Programme Manager added that there would be a reconfiguration of the internal building to allow for more accessible GP provision, leisure opportunities and supporting Sheppey Matters. The Head of Environment and Leisure reported that several of the elements within the specification and the construction design included sustainability principles such as Building Research Establishment Environmental Assessment Method (BREEAM) and air source heat pumps. This would improve existing sustainability levels on the site and also reduce costs.

The Chair proposed the recommendation, which was seconded by Councillor Hayden

Brawn.

Resolved:

(1) That the Etec Group be appointed to deliver the Levelling Up Funded Sheerness Revival Beachfields and public realm projects, subject to the final contract value being within the available budget and to financial due diligence being undertaken to the satisfaction of the Chair of the Economy and Property Committee and the Director of Resources prior to contract award.

514 **Forward Decisions Plan**

Resolved:

(1) That the Forward Decisions Plan be noted.

515 **Exclusion of the Press and Public**

There was no need to pass this resolution as Appendix I for item 7, Beach Hut Tender, and Appendix II for item 8, Sheerness Revival (LUF) – Beachfields contract award were not discussed at the meeting.

516 **Exempt Appendix I - Beach Hut Tender**

This item was not discussed.

517 **Exempt Appendix II - Sheerness Revival (LUF) - Beachfields contract award**

This item was not discussed.

Chair

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All minutes are draft until agreed at the next meeting of the Committee/Panel