

**CORPORATE INFRASTRUCTURE AND REGULATORY SERVICES SCRUTINY
COMMITTEE**

21 February 2023

Present:-

Councillors A Dewhirst (Chair), C Slade (Vice-Chair), M Asvachin, J Brook, P Bullivant, R Chesterton, P Crabb, M Hartnell, J Hodgson, R Radford, J Trail BEM and J Wilton-Love

Members attending in accordance with Standing Order 25

Councillors J Hart, F Letch and P Twiss

Apologies:-

Councillors Y Atkinson, J Berry and I Roome

* **96** **Items Requiring Urgent Attention**

There was no item raised as a matter of urgency.

* **97** **Exclusion of the Press and Public**

RESOLVED that the press and public be excluded from the meeting for the following item of business under Section 100(A)(4) of the Local Government Act 1972 on the grounds it involves the likely disclosure of exempt information as defined in Paragraph 3 of Schedule 12A of the Act, information relating to the financial or business affairs of an individual other than the County Council and, in accordance with Section 36 of the Freedom of Information Act 2000, by virtue of the fact that the public interest in maintaining the exemption outweighs the public interest in disclosing the information.

* **98** **Call-in of Cabinet Member Decision: Land in Crediton**

(An item taken under Section 100A (4) of the Local Government Act 1972 during which the press and public were excluded)

(Councillor R Chesterton declared a personal interest by virtue of his membership of the Mid Devon District Council's Planning Committee in so far as this matter related to the current and proposed Local Plans).

Councillors F Letch attended in accordance with Standing Order 25 (2) and spoke to this item and referred to the proposed purchase price and necessity and strategic value of the land in question; and Councillors J Hart and P Twiss attended in accordance with Standing 25 (1) and spoke with the consent of

the Committee in support of the Cabinet Member decision and referred to the strategic importance of the land in question in the best interests of the County Council and the local community.

In accordance with Paragraph 17 of the Scrutiny Procedure Rules, the Chair had invoked the call-in Procedure in relation to the Cabinet Member decision FIN 700 in regard to the proposed purchase of land in Crediton (decision published on 6 February 2023).

The Call-in in the name of the Chair related to costs, valuations and links to local plans.

The Head of Service (Digital Transformation & Business Support) reported on the initial guide price, further valuations, bid process and the strategic importance of the land in question in terms of access arrangements and possible future development and environmental and infrastructure considerations.

The Members referred to the strategic importance of the land in question and need to protect the County Council's and the local community's best interests in the longer term.

It was **MOVED** by Councillor P Crabb, and **SECONDED** by Councillor J Brook and

RESOLVED that that the Cabinet Member decision (FIN 700) in relation to land purchase in Crediton be endorsed, as detailed in the Head of Service's presentation.

***DENOTES DELEGATED MATTER WITH POWER TO ACT**

The Meeting started at 2.15 pm and finished at 2.54 pm