

## **NORTHUMBERLAND COUNTY COUNCIL**

### **CORPORATE SERVICES AND ECONOMIC GROWTH OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY COMMITTEE**

At a meeting of the **Corporate Services and Economic Growth Overview and Scrutiny Committee** held in Committee Room 1, County, Hall, Morpeth on Monday, 11 September 2017 at 2.00 p.m.

#### **PRESENT**

Councillor D. Bawn  
(Chairman, in the Chair)

#### **COUNCILLORS**

Grimshaw, L.  
Ledger, D.  
Parry, K.

Roughead, G.  
Wilson, T.

#### **PORTFOLIO HOLDER**

Jackson, P.  
Dodd, R.  
Wearmouth, R.

Leader of the Council  
Business Chair  
Economic Development

#### **ALSO IN ATTENDANCE**

M. Turner

Head of Property Services and Capital  
Programming

S. Nicholson

Scrutiny Co-ordinator

#### **8. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE**

Apologies were received from Councillors G. Castle, M. Robinson, M. Swinburn and J. Watson.

## 9. MINUTES

**RESOLVED** that the minutes of the Corporate Services and Economic Growth OSC, held on 27 July 2017, as circulated, be confirmed as a true record and signed by the Chairman.

## 10. EXCLUSION OF PRESS AND PUBLIC

**RESOLVED** that

- (a) under Section 100A (4) of the Local Government Act 1972, the press and public be excluded from the meeting during consideration of the following item on the Agenda as it involves the likely disclosure of exempt information as defined in Part I of Schedule 12A of the 1972 Act, as set out below, and
- (b) the public interest in maintaining the exemption outweighs the public interest in disclosure for the following reasons:

<b>Agenda Item</b>	<b>Paragraph of Part I of Schedule 12A</b>
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6	3 - Information relating to the financial or business affairs of any particular person (including the Council).
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The public interest in maintaining the exemption outweighs the interest in disclosure because the report contains financial information on the value of potential contractual claims which could prejudice future negotiations by contracted parties.

## 11. REPORT OF THE LEADER OF THE COUNCIL

### **Portland Park**

Councillor P. Jackson, Leader of the Council, presented this report to the Committee, which would request that the Cabinet reviews the Council's strategy in relation to the current County Hall site and the Portland Park Development in Ashington. (Report is enclosed with the signed minutes as Appendix A).

At the conclusion of the presentation, Councillor Ledger advised the Committee that he had reviewed the report in detail with colleagues, and had formulated a number of questions arising from it. He did not propose to go through them at the meeting, but requested that a response be provided to him within seven days. Councillor Jackson agreed to that request.

The Committee were invited to comment on the proposals prior to determination by the Cabinet on 12 September 2017. The Committee discussed issues regarding the proposed public consultation regarding uses for the site; the type of businesses and services that could be located at Portland Park, and the importance of the Blyth

- Ashington - Tyne rail link in providing integration and connectivity to services and businesses in Ashington.

**RESOLVED** that the detailed report of the Committee's comments be presented to the Cabinet on 12 September 2017 by the Chairman.

Chairman \_\_\_\_\_

Date \_\_\_\_\_