

Coventry City Council
Minutes of the Meeting of Joint Cabinet Member (Business, Enterprise and Employment) and (Policing and Equalities) held at 1.00 pm on Wednesday, 25 March 2015

Present:

Members: Councillor K Maton (Chair)
Councillor A Andrews (Shadow Cabinet Member)
Councillor J Birdi (Shadow Cabinet Member)
Councillor Townshend

Other Members: Councillor Clifford

Employees (by Directorate):

Place S Chantler, M Fothergill, C Hickin,

Resources U Patel

Apologies: Councillors R Lancaster and A Lucas

Public Business

24. Appointment of Chair

RESOLVED that Councillor Maton be appointed as Chair for this meeting.

25. Declarations of Interest

There were no declarations of interest.

26. Minutes

The minutes of the Joint Cabinet Members' meeting held on 18 February 2015 were signed as a true record. There were no matters arising.

27. Update report in response to a petition regarding the condition of an empty home in Holbrooks

Further to Minute 22, the Cabinet Members for Policing and Equalities and for Business, Enterprise and Equalities considered a further report which provided an update on actions taken since the Joint Cabinet Member meeting held on 18 February 2015. The report was in response to a petition received on the 21 June 2013, signed by 49 individuals in the Holbrooks area requesting the Council to take action against the owner of an empty property that had become overgrown and damaged by fire.

This report detailed the measures taken to address this problem firstly using Council powers to force the sale of the property to recover monies owed, and thereafter with the new owner of the property.

In December 2014 officers contacted the owner to try to secure improvements to the appearance of the site. Whilst some minor improvements were made in early January 2015, the overall condition of the fire-damaged property remained unchanged. Despite assurances given previously, no planning application had been submitted by the end of January 2015 for the demolition of the existing buildings and the redevelopment of the site. Consequently, officers served a Notice under s215 Town & Country Planning Act 1990 on 4 February 2015. The Notices required the owner to either (a) restore the building back to its original form and appearance, or (b) demolish the building in its entirety and remove from the land all waste and materials. Assuming no appeal is made to the Magistrates' Court, the Notice would come into force on 8 March 2015 and the required works must be completed no later than 8 July 2015.

Officers have been regularly monitoring the site since the Section 215 Notice was served and to date no substantive works had been undertaken to comply with the Notice. In the event of non-compliance by 8 July 2015 the matter would be referred to the next available Planning Committee with a recommendation to (a) institute legal proceedings, and (b) undertake works in default to secure compliance with the Notice should legal proceedings prove successful and compliance with the Notice remains outstanding following a further warning period.

RESOLVED that the Cabinet Members for Policing and Equalities and for Business, Enterprise and Employment jointly:

- 1. Endorse the action already taken and planned to address the conditions at this property.**
- 2. Request that officers seek authority at the earliest available date from Planning Committee for (a) the institution of appropriate proceedings in the Magistrates' Court in the event of non-compliance with the Section 215 Notice served on 4 February 2015; and (b) to undertake works in default to secure compliance with the Notice, should proceedings in the Magistrates Court be successful and the owner fail to comply with the Notice following a further compliance period.**
- 3. Request a further progress report by the end of July 2015.**

28. Any other items of public business which the Chair decides to take as matters of urgency because of the special circumstances involved

There were no other items of business.

(Meeting closed at 1.20 pm)