

FLINTSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL

CABINET RECORD OF DECISION

DATE OF MEETING: **12 MAY 2020** **AGENDA ITEM NO. 2**

REPORT OF: **Chief Officer (Governance)**

SUBJECT: **CONSULTATION ON CHARITABLE RATES RELIEF
FOR SCHOOLS AND HOSPITALS**

RECOMMENDATIONS OF REPORT: That any proposed reform of Charitable Rate Relief for schools and hospitals should be deferred due to the economic impacts of this emergency situation as the sustainability of the whole rates scheme, in its current form, might be in need of review by Welsh Government.

DECISION: As detailed in the recommendation.

REASON FOR DECISION: As in the report.

**CONSULTATIONS
REQUIRED/CARRIED OUT:** The consultation seeks views on whether there is a need for reform Charitable Rates Relief for schools and hospitals to ensure that the support the Welsh Government provides through its rates relief schemes is properly targeted.

The Chair of the relevant Overview and Scrutiny Committee, which for this report was Councillor Clive Carver as Chair of Corporate Resources Overview and Scrutiny Committee, commented as follows:

'My view as Chair of CRO&SC is that I fully agree with the Recommendation in the Report, "that any proposed reform of Charitable Rate Relief for schools and hospitals should be deferred due to the economic impacts of this emergency situation as the sustainability of the whole rate scheme, in its current form, might be in need of review by Welsh Government.'

RESOURCE IMPLICATIONS:

At a local level, Charitable Rate Relief of £185k is provided to voluntary aided schools in the County, including Church in Wales and Roman Catholic schools, all of which are registered Charities and benefit from 80% Mandatory Rate Relief.

If, following the consultation, the Minister decides to remove rate relief for voluntary aided schools in Flintshire, without additional funding in Revenue Support Grant (RSG) to fund the additional Business Rate costs, there will be an additional budget pressure which will also impact on the Council's Medium Term Financial Strategy.

DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST:

None.

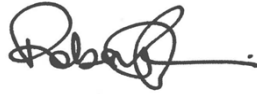
DISPENSATIONS

None.

DATE PUBLISHED:

13th May 2020

SIGNED



(Proper Officer)

FLINTSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL

CABINET RECORD OF DECISION

DATE OF MEETING: **12 MAY 2020** **AGENDA ITEM NO. 3**

REPORT OF: **Chief Officer (Housing and Assets)**

SUBJECT: **SALE OF NEWTECH SQUARE, DEESIDE BUSINESS
PARK, DEESIDE, CH5 2NT**

RECOMMENDATIONS OF REPORT: Cabinet support the sale of Newtech Square, an office and laboratory space of 22,500 sq ft on Deeside Industrial Park.

DECISION: As detailed in the recommendation.

REASON FOR DECISION: As in the report.

**CONSULTATIONS
REQUIRED/CARRIED OUT:** With the local Member.

The Chair of the relevant Overview and Scrutiny Committee, which for this report was Councillor Clive Carver as Chair of Corporate Resources Overview and Scrutiny Committee, commented as follows:

'My views as Chair of CRO&SC are:-

1. The tenant of 1 Newtech Square has exercised their break clause and despite their actively marketing the property in order to assign or sublet without success. Interest in the property has been shown by a pharmaceutical company whom are already located on Deeside Industrial Park. They have offered £700,000 which the Council's external agent, BA Commercial, has verified as acceptable.
2. The Council has a building to dispose of, it has a buyer who has made an acceptable offer of £700,000 acceptance of which will save the Council having to pay

£8,000 per annum Service Charge and Non-Domestic Rates of approximately £6,875 per annum should the offer not be accepted and the building become vacant.

Therefore, in the circumstances, I have no objection to the proposal to accept the offer of £700,000'.

RESOURCE IMPLICATIONS:

As detailed in the report.

DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST:

None.

DISPENSATIONS

None.

DATE PUBLISHED:

13th May 2020

SIGNED



(Proper Officer)

FLINTSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL

CABINET RECORD OF DECISION

DATE OF MEETING: **12 MAY 2020** **AGENDA ITEM NO. 4**

REPORT OF: **Chief Officer (Housing and Assets)**

SUBJECT: **SALE OF HOPE HALL FARM, HOPE**

RECOMMENDATIONS OF REPORT: Cabinet support the sale of Hope Hall Farm, Hope, comprising 101 acres of agricultural land, house and associated out buildings.

DECISION: As detailed in the recommendation.

REASON FOR DECISION: As in the report.

**CONSULTATIONS
REQUIRED/CARRIED OUT:** With the local Members and Cabinet Member.

All Councillors and members of the public had the opportunity to provide any representations to the Democratic Services Manager before the Cabinet Member took the decision.

The Chair of the relevant Overview and Scrutiny Committee, which for this report was Councillor Clive Carver as Chair of Corporate Resources Overview and Scrutiny Committee, commented as follows:

‘As Chair of CRO&SC, I find it rather strange that the sale of Hope Hall Farm has come to CRO&SC and Cabinet some months after it has actually been sold. From the Report, following the Capital and Assets Programme Board supporting the disposal of the farm in February 2018, it was sold by informal tender in November 2019.

I accept that whilst it would have been better if CRO&SC and Cabinet had been involved earlier, certainly in the current

situation market conditions may have deteriorated and the purchaser have second thoughts on the offered sum.

Therefore, in the circumstances, I have no objection to the Recommendation that Cabinet support the sale of Hope Hall Farm, Hope comprising 101 acres of agricultural land, house and associated buildings'.

RESOURCE IMPLICATIONS:

As detailed in the report.

DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST:

None.

DISPENSATIONS

None.

DATE PUBLISHED:

13th May 2020

SIGNED



(Proper Officer)
