

**CABINET
(FURTHER MEETING)
HELD ON 4 JULY 2007
(FROM 4.30 PM TO 4.41 PM)**

PRESENT: Councillor Mike Gardner in the Chair. Councillors Jean Butterfield, Cooper, Andrew Jones, Pat Jones and Don MacKenzie.

Late Arrivals: None.

Early Departures: None.

34/07 - **APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE:** An apology for absence had been received from Councillor Ellington. (4.30pm)

35/07 - **DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST:** Councillor Cooper declared a prejudicial interest in relation to Minute 38/07 as detailed below. (4.32pm)

36/07 - **MINUTES:** The Minutes of the meeting of Cabinet held on 27 June 2007 were unanimously approved as a correct record and signed by the Chair. (4.33 pm)

37/07 - **EXEMPT INFORMATION:** The report referred to at Minute 38/07 contained information considered to be exempt in accordance with paragraph 3 of Schedule 12A to the Local Government Act 1972 as amended. Discussion on the item was, however, held in open session.

MATTERS REFERRED TO COUNCIL FOR CONSIDERATION

38/07 - **EXHIBITION HALLS REDEVELOPMENT:** The Director of Harrogate International Centre submitted a written report in order to advise the Council on further action in respect of the redevelopment of the Harrogate International Centre Exhibition Halls. The project was a priority action for the Council and a feasibility study had been undertaken over the course of the last year. A copy of the feasibility study summary and scheme drawings were attached to the report.

The Director advised that a full briefing for members in relation to the redevelopment scheme would take place at 5.30 pm on the 18 July 2007 in advance of the next Council meeting when this issue would be considered along with Cabinet recommendations.

In terms of the financial projections it was acknowledged that officers had tried to be realistic and had based figures on worst-case assumptions. The Director advised that the Chief Executive of Yorkshire Forward had indicated a desire to support the project, however it was anticipated that the degree of such support would take a while to gauge. The Director also advised that the Chief Executive of Queens Moat House Group, the owners of the Holiday Inn whose Car park was part of the proposed scheme, had advised that the UK Group as a whole was now on the

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market, and included the Harrogate operation. The Director indicated that this should not be allowed to stand in the way of the proposed redevelopment scheme and that he would advise further on how this issue could be resolved.

(Councillor Cooper declared a prejudicial interest in relation the Exhibition Halls redevelopment and on that basis left the room during the consideration of this item.)

RECOMMENDED (UNANIMOUSLY):

That authority be granted to:

(1) complete the necessary negotiations as per confidential appendix A,

(2) instruct the external project team to develop phase one of the scheme to a stage where this element of the project can be let for construction, and to let a construction contract for the phase subject to a satisfactory external capital support summary: such work to include and obtain the necessary statutory consents,

(3) progress further feasibility work on the remaining phases of the project with a view to securing a satisfactory and affordable financial solution, and a further report be made back to the Council in due course; and

(4) local stakeholders be advised of the proposals and any comments sought to inform the further development of the scheme.

(4.34 pm – 4.37 pm)

39/07 - **THE ROYAL HALL RESTORATION – CONCLUDING AN ENHANCED SCHEME:** The Royal Hall Project Manager submitted a written report which set out a proposal to allocate additional funding of £120,000 to the Royal Hall Scheme from HBC Capital Funds to enable the restoration and rebuild of the front steps at the entrance of the Royal Hall.

The Project Manager advised as to the reasons why the request for assistance from HBC Capital Funding had risen from £95,000 to £120,000. It was acknowledged that this proposal, if approved would not impact on other capital spending priorities.

RECOMMENDED (UNANIMOUSLY):

That (1) the good progress on the scheme to date be noted;

(2) the Council congratulate the Royal Hall Restoration Trust on the outstanding achievements in fund raising; and

(3) that additional funding of £120,000 be allocated to the Royal Hall Scheme from HBC Capital Funds to enable the front steps to be completed.

(4.37 pm – 4.41 pm)