

## **CHESHIRE EAST COUNCIL**

Minutes of a meeting of the **Cabinet Member for Regeneration and Assets**  
held on Monday, 21st December, 2015 at Committee Suite 1,2 & 3,  
Westfields, Middlewiche Road, Sandbach CW11 1HZ

### **PRESENT**

Councillor D Stockton

### **Councillor in attendance:**

Councillor T Dean

### **Officers in attendance:**

David Job – County Land Agent

Cherry Foreman – Democratic Services Officer

### **51 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE**

There were no apologies for absence.

### **52 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

There were no declarations of interest.

### **53 PUBLIC SPEAKING TIME/OPEN SESSION**

No members of the public were present.

### **54 RIDLEY FARMS ESTATE - LETTINGS**

It was reported that the overarching farms estate strategy had been approved by Cabinet in January 2012 and supplemented by the findings of a Cabinet Review Group during 2013, including improving the scale and type of opportunities to farm for new entrants and those seeking progression.

Options for the structure of the Ridley Farms estate were considered and approved in October 2015 confirming that Moss, Centenary & Mount Pleasant Farms should be offered as Entry Level 1, Level 2 & Level 2 opportunities respectively. The farms had been advertised 'to let' from 1<sup>st</sup> April 2016 following on, in the two latter cases, to the outgoing tenants having secured tenancies of larger farms on privately owned estates.

Lettings for farms are for a period of up to 15 years or up to age 65, typically with 5 year break clauses, and they are advertised on the open market. Prospective tenants are invited to submit their farming proposals and business plans identifying the term that they propose, any investment that they propose or require, and the rent payable, by informal tender; Portfolio Holder approval was required for leases of more than 7 years.

In response to an email request from Cllr B Roberts, that all workers employed either directly or indirectly on Cheshire East owned property should be paid not

less than the living wage, it was noted that whilst being supportive this was not something which could be dealt with as part of the lease agreements.

**RESOLVED**

That approval be given to the letting for Moss, Centenary and Mount Farms individually for periods of up to 15 years, and that Officers be authorised to take all necessary actions to implement the proposal.

The meeting commenced at 9.30 am and concluded at 9.35 am