

# **CHESHIRE EAST COUNCIL**

Minutes of a meeting of the **Cabinet Member for Finance**  
held on Thursday, 23rd January, 2014 at Management Meeting Room,  
Westfields, Middlewich Road, Sandbach CW11 1HZ

## **PRESENT**

Councillors P Raynes.

## **Officers in attendance:**

Joanne Jones – Property Services Manager

Janine Smart – Capital and Land Development Manager

Cherry Foreman – Democratic Services Officer

## **30 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE**

There were no apologies for absence.

## **31 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

There were no declarations of interest.

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

No members of the public were present.

## **33 MODE COTTAGE, MOBBERLEY**

Based on the October 2012 School Census, pupil forecasts for the Knutsford Planning Area indicated that there would be a significant shortfall of places. Forecasts for Mobberley CE Primary indicated that there would be insufficient places at the school with more children on roll than places available. This trend was forecast to continue reaching a shortfall of 70 pupil places by 2018 based on current admission patterns.

As a consequence Mobberley C of E Primary School was in urgent need of extending and remodelling to provide two additional classrooms together with associated storage, circulation and cloak areas. Due to the restricted nature of the school site an original proposal had been to construct the necessary extension on the existing rear playground of the school, and to negotiate with the adjacent land-owner for the acquisition of 615m<sup>2</sup> of farmland which would become the replacement playground. Following protracted negotiations with the land-owner however it had not been possible to reach an agreement and the option of acquiring Mode Cottage was, therefore, considered to be the best alternative option.

The acquisition of Mode Cottage would provide a site sufficient to facilitate this expansion and would also create an independent access to the school which is needed to secure the future of the site. In July 2013 the property had been valued at £400,000 but despite protracted negotiations the seller would not consider offers less than £470,000. As acquisition by private treaty was

considered to be the only viable way to achieve the early expansion of the school it was, therefore, recommended that it be purchased at the asking price.

**RESOLVED**

That approval be given to proceed with the purchase of Mode Cottage for the sum of £470,000 and to enter into a Deed of Release/Modification with the Chester Diocesan Board of Finance in respect of the covenants affecting the use of the land.

The meeting commenced at 3.15 pm and concluded at 3.25 pm

Councillor (none)