

# **CHESHIRE EAST COUNCIL**

Minutes of a meeting of the **Cabinet Member for Finance**  
held on Wednesday, 6th August, 2014 at Committee Suite 1 & 2, Westfields,  
Middlewich Road, Sandbach CW11 1HZ

## **PRESENT**

Councillors P Raynes, Cabinet Member for Finance

### **Councillor in Attendance**

Councillor L Smetham, Local Ward Member

### **Officers**

David Job, County Land Agent

Rachel Graves, Democratic Services Officer

## **9 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE**

There were no apologies for absence.

## **10 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

No declarations of interest were made.

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

No members of the public were present.

## **12 FARMS ESTATE - PROPERTY DISPOSAL**

Consideration was given to a report on the disposal of property from the Gawsworth Farms estate.

In 2011/12 the Council had conducted a full review of the farms estate leading to a policy decision to retain, modernise and restructure the service. The strategy recognised and accommodated the need for investment, identifying disposals to fully fund infrastructure requirements and the value of opportunities to improve the estate structure and performance by strategic options and opportunistic acquisitions and disposals.

A review of assets was undertaken and it was concluded that given the nature, location, type and physical attributes of Holding 16 – Woodhouse Green Farm, Gawsworth it would not be retained as part of the farms estate.

The property was let within a full agricultural tenancy that had commenced in 1958, providing security of tenure for the life of the tenant and the tenant

had expressed an interest in acquiring the property. Whilst the disposal of surplus vacant property would normally be advertised publicly, the existence of the tenancy had a significant influence on options to secure full value.

**RESOLVED:** That

- (1) Woodhouse Green Farm be declared surplus to requirements and the property be sold to the tenant on terms to be approved by the Director of Economic Growth and Prosperity.
- (2) Officers be authorised to take all necessary actions to implement the proposal.

The meeting commenced at 10.00 am and concluded at 10.10 am

Councillor P Raynes