

Waverley Borough Council Resolution, 13 December 2022

Following the consideration of all feedback to the Central Godalming Regeneration Project Public Engagement, including, but not limited to the presentation by the Finance Portfolio Holder to the Executive on 29th November and taking account of the views expressed in a petition being presented to Full Council on 13th December and taking into account the Council's duty to have regard for:

- A) the opportunities identified **since at least 2018** to save revenue expenditure on operating and maintaining the Burys (Council Office) building, and the best use of the Council's assets for all the residents of Waverley.
- B) the national macro-economic climate and the volatile condition of and uncertain prospects for local government funding settlements from central government, and
- C) believing that this Council must act responsibly and with financial prudence on behalf of all our residents across the Borough and that sometimes this necessitates making difficult choices.

This Council resolves to:

- Terminate the consideration of any options to relocate some of the spaces in Crown Court Car Park in Godalming
- Stop the consideration of any options to build houses on Crown Court Car Park
- Reject any options to build a decked car park at the Waverley Borough Council HQ site

IF

- Alternative and fiscally equivalent options can be identified and implemented to meet the serious financial constraints impacting Waverley Borough Council within the relevant and appropriate planning and financial frameworks and regulations also keeping in mind the Council objective to maximise the delivery of genuinely affordable and social housing.

To this end, the Council further resolves to:

- Appoint a dedicated, **all-party**, Executive Working Group (in accordance with Part 4.4 Annexe 1 of the Waverley Borough Council Constitution) with the following terms of reference, scope, and composition:
 - a) This Executive Working Group will be chaired by the Portfolio Holder for Finance and Assets.
 - b) The scope of the group will be to find and **further consider** any alternatives to the Godalming Regeneration Project that address the

financial objectives of the project and within the relevant and appropriate planning and financial frameworks and regulations.

- c) The composition of the group will be 2 Liberal Democrats; 2 Farnham Residents; 2 Conservatives; 1 Green and 1 Labour member.
 - d) Sessions of this Executive Working Group will not be considered quorate without **at least ONE representative** from each of the legally constituted political groups on the council.
 - e) The group will meet in January and report by 15th February 2022.
- To write to and engage with Homes England regarding any housing and infrastructure assistance, funding, and guidance that they could offer.
 - To release and publish to the WBC website, in the interests of transparency, the Lambert Smith Hampton report (2018) commissioned by the previous administration of WBC.
 - To write to the MP for South West Surrey, the Rt Hon. Jeremy Hunt in his capacity as a cabinet minister and Chancellor of the Exchequer of the United Kingdom, to request a plan for sustainable local government funding sufficient to allow this Council to deliver services without the need to consider projects such as the Central Godalming Regeneration Project.