

EX33. PORTFOLIO MANAGEMENT PLAN UPDATE REPORT

The Executive considered a report by the Director of Development Services providing an update on the progress of the Portfolio Management Plan (PMP).

The PMP seeks to sustain and enhance a visible property portfolio for economic development through the phased disposal of existing assets and re-investment of the proceeds in developing new business property.

The report summarised the outcome of disposals in 2014/15. In 2015/16, 11 lots are programmed for disposal, including 5 that are being remarketed.

The next phase of the re-investment programme is the industrial development at plot 6 at Abbotsford Business Park, with the Council making a £1.3m investment. It was anticipated that the development will generate £90k annually in rates and rental and will generate further interest in Abbotsford Business Park. It was proposed that the land is acquired through the existing Joint Venture Agreement (JVA) with Scottish Enterprise and that the cost, £165,000, is met by the Council and netted off future sale proceeds.

Councillor D Goldie, seconded by Councillor C Martin, moved that the Executive:-

- (1) notes the performance of the Portfolio Management Plan and the contribution it is making to the local economy;
- (2) agrees to progress the purchase of Plot 6 Abbotsford Business Park for £165,000 plus VAT per the terms of the Abbotsford Business Park Joint Venture Agreement between Scottish Enterprise and Falkirk Council as outlined in paragraph 4.3 of the report; and
- (3) agrees to progress with the updated proposals for the Portfolio Management Plan disposal and reinvestment plans as set out in the report and detailed in appendices 1 and 2 to the report.

As an amendment, Councillor Alexander, seconded by Councillor Coleman, moved clauses (1) and (2) of the motion and substitution of clause (3) with the following:-

- (3) notes the views of a number of former sitting tenants who believe their businesses have been financially damaged as a result of the sale of the property to other businesses and requests that officers bring a further report to the Executive outlining the options open to facilitate the selling, at market value, to sitting tenants before commencing the plan outlined in appendices 1 and 2 of the report.

and the addition of a further clause;

- (4) notes with concern the lack of a credible investment strategy and therefore agrees to call on officers to carry out an audit of the prospective needs for growth of Falkirk's SME's beginning with the small businesses contained within the Council's own business incubators.

On a division 9 members voted for the motion and 2 voted for the amendment, with voting as follows:-

For the motion (9) – Councillors Blackwood, D Goldie, G Goldie, Gow, Mahoney, C Martin, C R Martin, Nicol and Nimmo.

For the Amendment (2) – Councillors Alexander and Coleman.

Decision

The Executive agreed the motion.