

Falkirk Council

Title: Land Surplus to Requirements – Polmonthill Cottage

Meeting: Executive Date: 27 August 2019

Submitted By: Director of Development Services

1. Purpose of Report

1.1. The purpose of this report is to seek approval to sell an area of ground located adjacent to Polmonthill Cottage, Polmont, currently leased to the cottage owners.

2. Recommendation(s)

- 2.1. It is recommended that the Executive agrees to:-
 - (a) declare the area of ground at Polmonthill Cottage, Polmont surplus to requirements, and
 - (b) authorise the Director of Development Services to conclude the transaction for the disposal of the property to the current tenant at a cost of £15,000.

3. Background

- 3.1. The applicant wishes to purchase an area of ground which is leased from the Council on a short term basis and extends to 769 sq.m (see attached plan Appendix 1). The tenants are the owners of the neighbouring house, Polmonthill Cottage.
- 3.2. The applicant has developed the area of ground upon which they have built a substantial pigeon loft and stables. They now seek to secure their investment by acquiring the site.

4. Considerations

- 4.1. It is proposed to sell the site by negotiated agreement. This involved the site being valued by the District Valuer and the price of £15,000 has been agreed with the applicants, in principle.
- 4.2. The loss of land is not significant and gives a useful net receipt for Falkirk Council.
- 4.3. The adjacent field is let on a separate grazing lease to the applicants. There is no intention to sell this field.

4.4. The necessary approvals for the construction of the two structures on the site had not originally been sought by the applicant from Falkirk Council. However, a Certificate of Lawful Use for the pigeon loft and stables have now been obtained from the Council's planning service.

5. Consultation

5.1. The relevant local members were consulted on the 11th June 2019 and no concerns were raised.

Implications

Financial

6.1 If progressed to conclusion, the sale of this asset will generate a receipt of £15,000 for the General Services Account and as a result there will be a loss of rental income to the Council of £350 per year.

Resources

6.2 None.

Legal

6.3 The disposal will be subject to conclusion of all necessary legal agreements. There will be a "claw-back" provision in the sale documentation that if within twenty years residential planning permission were gained for the property then Falkirk Council would receive 30% of any uplift in value.

Risk

6.4 None

Equalities

6.5 Not applicable.

Sustainability/Environmental Impact

6.6 None.

7 Conclusions

7.1 It is recommended that the applicant be sold the land on the terms detailed in this report.

Director of Development Services

Author – Keith Raffan, Property Surveyor, <u>Tel:</u> 01324 504797, keith.raffan@falkirk.gov.uk
Date: 12 August 2019

Appendices

Appendix 1 - Map showing location of land proposed to be sold.

List of Background Papers:

The following papers were relied on in the preparation of this report in terms of the Local Government (Scotland) Act 1973:



Subject

Land at Polmonthill, Polmont

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