

RECORD OF DECISIONS - CABINET TUESDAY, 9 JANUARY 2024

<p>Key</p>	<p>3 - Future Housing Options</p> <p>RESOLVED:</p> <p>I. To note the situation regarding performance of the current UNSL joint venture arrangement.</p> <p>II. To note the independent external expert advice on the state of the market and options for alternative future provision.</p> <p>III. To note the independent external expert legal advice regarding the authority's legal position.</p> <p>IV. To agree to officially serve notice of the Council's intention to not extend the current UNSL joint venture beyond the end of its natural five year agreed term [ie to end March 2025].</p>	<p>Reasons:</p> <p>The decision whether to end the arrangement in 2025 or else extend it to 2030 is required at the latest 12 months ahead of the natural five year end date in March 2025 – ie by end March 2024. Officers advise that it is better to take this decision in January 2024, a couple of months ahead of that contractual deadline, so as to allow all parties slightly more time to work on a smooth transition in 2025.</p> <p>Other Options considered:</p> <p>None for decision at this stage - officer advice to Members was to end the UNSL arrangement at the natural conclusion of its five year term, at end of March 2025. Alternative Future Options were summarised in paragraph 58 in the report but were not for decision.</p> <p>Any interest declared by any member of Cabinet:</p> <p>None.</p> <p>In respect of any conflict of interest declared, whether dispensation is in existence for that interest:</p> <p>N/A.</p>
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A decision will come into force and may be implemented on the expiry of five working days after the date of publication unless either the Chairman or any three members of the Scrutiny Committee objects and calls it in. To check the call in status of any of the above decisions, please refer to the Decisions page of the website, where you can use search options to find information regarding decisions taken.

V. To proceed, by mutual agreement with Norse, to end the smaller General Fund estates and facilities arrangements at end March 2024, transferring those functions and associated staff directly to the Council.

VI. To give delegated authority to the Director of Housing, Health and Communities, the Chief Executive, and Strategic Director of Finance, Commercialisation and Corporate Services in consultation with the Cabinet Members for Housing and Finance to go straight to the market in 2024 to appoint a roster of suppliers available to 'step in' to provide any individual elements of work necessary during 2024 and early 2025 ahead of the end of the UNSL Joint Venture in the event of any shortfall of provision by UNSL during this transition period.

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VII. To give further delegated authority to the Director of Housing, Health and Communities, the Chief Executive, and Strategic Director of Finance, Commercialisation and Corporate Services in consultation with the Cabinet Members for Housing and Finance to appoint resources as necessary to develop the specification ahead of bringing back for Member decision the long term procurement process in the summer of 2024.

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