NORTH SOMERSET COUNCIL

DECISION OF: COUNCILLOR ASHLEY CARTMAN, THE EXECUTIVE MEMBER FOR FINANCE & PERFORMANCE

WITH ADVICE FROM: INTERIM SECTION 151 OFFICER OF THE COUNCIL'S CORPORATE SERVICES DIRECTORATE



DECISION NO: CSD 33

SUBJECT: Sale of Land off Moor Lane, Backwell.

KEY DECISION: No

BACKGROUND

On 15 April 2014, the Executive approved the disposal of the Council's land at Moor Lane, Backwell by means of the grant of an Option Agreement to Taylor Wimpey / Bryant Homes as owners of the adjoining parcel of land based on the terms referred to in a report. As the eventual sale price would not be established until after the proposed purchaser secured a satisfactory full planning consent The Executive delegated the approval of the final sale price to the Executive Member for Asset Management in consultation with the Head of Financial Management.

The Council entered into the Option Agreement on the 25th September 2014 after which Taylor Wimpey submitted and secured outline planning consent for residential development over their land and the Council's land followed by full planning consent. Having secured full planning consent for 65 residential units across the combined site Taylor Wimpey have triggered the process to value the Council's part of the site and negotiations have taken place. The Council appointed Bruton Knowles Property Consultants to assist in the negotiations with Taylor Wimpey to agree Market Value in accordance with the terms contained in the Option Agreement. Following these negotiations, agreement has been reached with Taylor Wimpey for a purchase price of £2,840,000 for the Council's land. Bruton Knowles have confirmed that, in their opinion, this figure represents Market Value and is the best price achievable for the land in accordance with the detailed terms of the Option Agreement.

DECISION:

To authorise officers to agree in writing a price of £2,840,000 for the land and to complete the sale of the land to Taylor Wimpey at that price.

REASONS:

The Council's external property consultants and the Council's internal valuers are satisfied that a price of £2,840,000 reflects the market value for the land and represents the best

price which could reasonably be expected to be achieved in accordance with the terms of the Option Agreement entered into by the Council on 25 September 2014.

OPTIONS CONSIDERED:

As permitted under the terms of the Option Agreement, the option of rejecting the proposed price and electing to determine the price by Independent Resolution was considered. However, this option was rejected as both the Council's external and internal valuers believe that referral to a third independent valuer for determination would introduce significant risks of increased costs and delays whilst presenting relatively little prospect of improvement in the proposed price.

FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS:

The sale will produce a positive financial receipt to the benefit of the Council.

COSTS

Legal and valuation costs will be met from the proceeds of sale.

FUNDING

This Decision carries no funding requirements

LEGAL POWERS AND IMPLICATIONS

This Decision relates to a pre-existing contract under the Option Agreement dated 25 September 2014 and the obligations of s123 Local Govt Act 1972 which require that the price agreed for the land represents best value to the Council.

CONSULTATION

Consultation was not required in respect of this specific Decision, but full consultation has previously taken place as part of the planning application for development of the site.

RISK MANAGEMENT

The Decision presents no new risk to the Council

EQUALITY IMPLICATIONS

The Decision has no equality implications

CORPORATE IMPLICATIONS

The financial receipt from the sale of the land will support the Council's future capital programme. The delivery of the development of new homes will support the Council's housing numbers and, overall, the Decision will contribute towards the aims of the Council's Corporate Plan to deliver prosperity and opportunity.

BACKGROUND PAPERS

Executive Report dated 15th April 2014
The Option Agreement dated 25 September 2014
The Decision CSD35 2018/19, to appoint Bruton Knowles Property Consultants

SIGNATORIES:

DECISION MAKER(S):

Signed:

Councillor Ashley Cartman

Executive Member for Finance and Performance.

Date 2+17119

WITH ADVICE FROM:

Signed: Kensta

Richard Penska Interim s151 Officer.

Date 2417119

Footnote: Details of changes made and agreed by the decision taker since publication of the proposed (pre-signed) decision notice, if applicable:







