

**MINUTES OF GENERAL PURPOSES COMMITTEE**

**MEETING DATE** Thursday, 13 December 2018

**MEMBERS PRESENT:** Councillor Gordon France (Chair), Councillor Anthony Gee (Vice-Chair) and Councillors Jean Cronshaw, John Dalton, Margaret France, June Molyneaux, Greg Morgan, Gillian Sharples and Neville Whitham

**OFFICERS:** Gary Hall (Chief Executive), Mark Lester (Director (Business, Development and Growth)), Chris Moister (Head of Legal, Democratic & HR Services) and Ruth Rimmington (Democratic and Member Services Team Leader)

**APOLOGIES:** Councillor Aaron Beaver, Eric Bell, Alan Cullens, Tom Gray, Paul Leadbetter, Matthew Lynch and Alistair Morwood

**OTHER MEMBERS:** Councillor Alistair Bradley and Peter Wilson

**18.GP.1 Minutes of meeting Thursday, 9 November 2017 of General Purposes Committee**

**Decision:** That the minutes of the General Purposes Committee held on 9 November 2017 be approved as a correct record for signature by the Chair.

**18.GP.2 Declarations of Any Interests**

There were no declarations of interest received.

**18.GP.3 Exclusion of the Public and Press**

**Decision:** that the press and public be excluded from the meeting for the consideration of the remaining item of business on the grounds that it will involve the disclosure of exempt information under Paragraph 3 of Part 1 of Schedule 12A to the Local Government Act 1972.

**18.GP.4 Market Walk Building Contract - Budget**

The Chair, Councillor Gordon France, invited the Executive Member (Resources), Councillor Peter Wilson, to introduce the report and answer any queries from Members.

Councillor Peter Wilson explained that the report relates to the confidential Market Walk Building Contract item discussed at the Executive Cabinet meeting just prior.

The report was considered by the cross-party Market Walk Steering Group on Monday evening. The report seeks approval of an increase in the budget for the Market Walk Extension and ancillary works.

On 23 January 2018 Council resolved to proceed with the Market Walk extension development and allocated a budget. The costs associated with the building contract and the ancillary works have increased by a combined sum of £312,433 with the total works costs now being £16,727,076. This is due to an increase in the price of steel, the need to find an alternative company to source the cladding from, works to the form Oak House site and works to the Chorley PALS memorial. The terms of the building contract were agreed at Executive Cabinet just prior.

The contract has a fixed price, but there may be future costs relating to specific tenant requests. Some costs, relating to highways works, have been requested from Lancashire County Council.

Councillor John Dalton queried the reasons for the delay in signing the contract. The Executive Leader, Councillor Alistair Bradley, responded with the consent of the Chair. Enabling works have been ongoing for several months which have provided essential information to facilitate the fixed price contract. This approach was agreed by the Council as it was considered the least risky.

Councillor Greg Morgan queried the number of tenants with signed contracts. Marks and Spencers Food and Reel cinema are the only two tenants with signed contracts, but there are a number of potential tenants in advanced discussions.

Councillor Peter Wilson highlighted the wish to follow the correct procedure with all aspects of the project given the size of the budget and impact on the Town Centre.

Councillor Gillian Sharples arrived at 7.25pm.

Councillor Margaret France spoke in favour of the project and the proposal.

**Decision: That the budget approved by Council on 23 January 2018 for the delivery of the Market Walk extension and ancillary works be increased to £16,727,076.**

Chair

Date