

# Extraordinary Cabinet

18 November 2015

**Present:** N Redfearn (Elected Mayor) (in the Chair)  
Councillors EN Darke, JLL Harrison, CB Pickard, JJ Stirling  
and A Waggott-Fairley.

## **CAB80/11/15 Apologies**

Apologies were received from Councillors CA Burdis, R Glindon, I Grayson and L Spillard.

## **CAB81/11/15 Declarations of Interest and Dispensations**

There were no declarations of interest made or dispensations reported.

## **CAB82/11/15 Exclusion Resolution**

**Resolved** that under Section 100A (4) of the Local Government Act 1972 (as amended) and having applied a public interest test as defined in Part 3 of Schedule 12A of the Act, the press and public be excluded from the meeting for the following item of business on the grounds that it involves the likely disclosure of exempt information as defined in Paragraph 3 of Part 1 of Schedule 12A to the Act.

## **CAB83/11/15 Spanish City Heritage Lottery Bid and Appointment of Preferred Operator (Previous Minute CAB11/06/15) (Whitley Bay Ward)**

Cabinet considered a report which sought authority to appoint a preferred operator for the Spanish City Dome, following the completion of a procurement process compliant with the Public Contract Regulations 2015. The report also requested approval to submit a stage 2 bid to the Heritage Lottery Fund towards the restoration of the Dome.

The appointment of an operator for the Dome was necessary to meet the requirements of the Heritage Lottery Fund (HLF) and must be completed prior to the Stage 2 grant application submission. The final deadline for submitting the Stage 2 bid was 19 November 2015.

The report provided details of the procurement process undertaken for the appointment of the preferred operator. Two bids had been submitted by the closing date for submission of outline solutions; however following further dialogue Bidder 2 had withdrawn from the procurement process.

A supplementary report circulated before the meeting detailed the remaining bidder's (Bidder 1) proposals submitted in their final tender and the outcome of the tender evaluation process. The report also outlined the benefits the restoration and re-use of the Dome would bring to the regeneration Whitley Bay seafront and to the local economy.

It was noted that in accordance with the urgency provisions contained in the Constitution, the Chair of Council had agreed to the decision on this matter not being subject to call-in to enable the Authority to meet the 19 November deadline for submitting the Stage 2 Heritage Lottery bid for the restoration of the Spanish City Dome. If the deadline for submission was not met then the opportunity for receiving HLF grant support towards the

restoration, as detailed in the report, would be lost or significantly delayed. There may also be consequential claw-back of existing development grant which had been approved to support development of the Stage 2 bid. There would be significant reputational implications for the Authority should this current funding opportunity deadline be missed. In addition, the loss of funding could also result in the building continuing to stand empty and deteriorating, which would result in negative publicity for the Authority and would potentially adversely affect other regeneration initiatives.

Cabinet considered the following decision options: either to agree the recommendations and submit the Stage 2 HLF bid by 19 November 2015 or alternatively not appoint Bidder 1 as the preferred operator for the Dome and not submit the Stage 2 HLF bid by 19 November 2015.

**Resolved** that (1) Bidder 1, detailed in the report, be appointed as the preferred operator for the Spanish City Dome; and  
(2) the Head of Business and Economic Development, in consultation with the Elected Mayor, the Deputy Mayor, the Head of Finance and the Head of Law and Governance, be authorised to submit the Stage 2 bid to the Heritage Lottery Fund, as detailed in the report, towards the restoration of the Spanish City Dome.

(Reason for decision – without the appointment of Bidder 1 as preferred operator, the Authority would be unable to submit a Stage 2 bid that would be acceptable to the Heritage Lottery Fund).

#### **CAB84/11/15 Dates and Times of Next Meetings**

6.00pm on Monday 23 November 2015 (Extraordinary Meeting)  
4.00pm on Monday 7 December 2015 (Extraordinary Meeting)  
6.00pm on Monday 14 December 2015 (Ordinary Meeting)

**Minutes published on Thursday 19 November 2015.**

**The decisions contained within these Minutes are not subject to call in and can be implemented immediately.**