



Minutes of the meeting of the EXECUTIVE SCRUTINY PANEL held on WEDNESDAY 27 OCTOBER 2004 at 5.30 PM

Present: Councillor Lloyd
Councillors Gerella, Jury, Long, Monk (substitute for Councillor Benning), Seymour and Tamagnini-Barbosa

Officers: P Smettem (Valuer to the Council), J Boothroyde (Overview and Scrutiny Manager) and G Lane (Committee Manager)

Also Present: Councillors I Henderson, Holroyd, Morsley and Tallack

Apology: Councillor Benning

Public: Mr D Stabler and Mr C Allum (Great Linford Parish Council)

ES05 GYOSEI SCHOOL – SALE OF FREEHOLD INTEREST

The Panel considered a call-in request from Great Linford Parish Council relating to the decision by Cabinet on 5 October 2004 that the Head of Legal and Property Services be authorised to sell the Council's freehold interest in the Gyosei school playing field site (**Minute C71**).

Mr David Stabler, on behalf of Great Linford Parish Council, requested that the Panel scrutinise the decision to determine:

- (a) Whether the land was to be sold, or if another arrangement had been made to surrender/transfer the land to English Partnerships.
- (b) Whether the arrangement with English Partnerships offered 'best value' under Section 123 of the Local Government Act (1972).

Mr Stabler stated that the call-in did not concern the need for an ExtraCare facility at the Gyosei site and that the Parish Council had never opposed the development, only the sale of the playing fields to a private housing developer. The call-in was to ensure transparency and honesty relating to a matter of public concern.

Mr Stabler stated that the Parish would support the sale of the Gyosei field site to English Partnerships if the process was transparent, but the financial assessment of the arrangement was

not yet public knowledge. The Parish believed that English Partnerships had the smallest stake in the site, but gained the most.

Councillor Tallack, Cabinet Member for Resources, confirmed to the Panel that he was satisfied that the arrangement with English Partnerships offered 'best value' under Section 123 of the Local Government Act (1972).

The Valuer to the Council stated that the detailed financial assessment of the arrangement with English Partnerships had yet to be clarified and, as such, could not be released into the public domain.

During consideration of this matter, the Panel:

RESOLVED -

That public and press representatives be excluded from the meeting by virtue of Paragraph 9 (Terms of Negotiations for a Contract for the Acquisition of Disposal of Property or the Supply of Goods and Services) of Part 1 of Schedule 12A of the Local Government Act (1972), in order that the Panel may consider the following matter:

Annex A and the Plan to the report at Agenda Item 3 (b) (Call-In of Decision C71 - Gyosei School - Sale of the Freehold Interest).

After receiving the exempt information, the Panel:

RESOLVED -

That the public and press representatives be re-admitted to the meeting to be advised of the decision of the Panel.

RESOLVED –

1. That the decision be referred back to Cabinet to clarify the wording of the decision regarding the sale or surrender of the asset.
2. That the details of all financial arrangements be released into the public domain on confirmation of the agreement with English Partnerships and the Parks Trust.

THE CHAIR CLOSED THE MEETING AT 7.20 PM