

EXECUTIVE SUB-COMMITTEE FOR PROPERTY

A meeting of the Executive Sub-Committee for Property was held on 2 December 2013.

PRESENT: Councillors D Budd (Chair), M Carr, C M Rooney, J Rostron, B Thompson and N J Walker

PRESENT AS OBSERVERS: Councillor R Arundale, Councillor J Brunton, Councillor C Hobson,
Councillor J Hobson,

ALSO IN ATTENDANCE: Representatives of the Consortium

OFFICIALS: Sandra Cartlidge, Angus Hoy, Luke Henman, Julie Lewis and Sharron Brown.

13/81 **MINUTES OF MEETING HELD ON 4 NOVEMBER 2013**

That the minutes of the Executive Sub Committee for Property held on the 4 November 2013 were taken as read and signed by the Chair as a true record.

13/82 **FORMER NATURE'S WORLD SITE, LADGATE LANE, ACKLAM, MIDDLESBROUGH**

The Executive Director of Neighbourhoods and Communities submitted a report that sought the view of the panel on potential options for the future of the former Nature's World site.

Nature's World was a visitor centre run by a community organisation to promote environmental sustainability and an appreciation of the natural world. Middlesbrough Council supported this venture through granting the site (Appendix 1) a peppercorn rent, provided financial guarantees and with assisted in securing external grant funding.

However by the end of 2012 the group were in financial difficulty and the administrators were called in and subsequently advised that the venture should be wound up. Information was outlined in further detail within the report.

The report outlined in detail that there were three options available.

Following discussions, the Chair opened the floor for Councillor Chris Hobson and Councillor Ronald Arundale to raise their concerns and issues.

ORDERED

1. **that the potential Council use be fully explored before considering alternative options;**
2. **that the CAT option to be progressed if this was not viable ; and**
3. **that the part disposal of the site if required to re-coup the Council's costs and generate investment, be included in both options.**

REASONS

The recommended approach provides the greatest potential range of benefits including continuing community-benefit usage of the site; potential for revenue savings/most cost effective response to capacity pressure on education provision; capital receipt to recoup costs/generate investment; retention/protection of the environmentally sensitive parts of the site.

The decision will come into force after five working days following the day the decision was published unless the decision becomes subject to the call in procedures.