

Report for: Cabinet 7 March 2017

Item number: 4

Title: Recommendation of a Preferred Bidder for the Haringey Development Vehicle – Outcome of Call-in to Overview and Scrutiny Committee.

Report

Author: Councillor Charles Wright, Chair of Overview and Scrutiny Committee

Ward(s) affected: N/A

Report for Key/

Non Key Decision: Key decision

1. Describe the issue under consideration

This report sets out the outcome of the Overview and Scrutiny Committee's consideration of the Cabinet decision of 14 February 2016 'Recommendation of a Preferred Bidder for the Haringey Development Vehicle, following its referral to the OSC under the Call-In process (as described in Part 4 Section H of the Council's Constitution).

2. Introduction

The Overview and Scrutiny Committee considered the Cabinet's decision at a special meeting on 2 March. The Committee heard from 2 deputations; one of which was from local Northumberland Park Residents and supported by the Haringey Defend Council Housing group, and the other deputation was given on behalf of the Unite and GMB trade unions. The Committee also heard from from the lead signatories of the two call-in requests received.

The Committee did not find that the decision reached fell outside the Budget or Policy Framework.

The Committee took the view that it would be most appropriate, for the purposes of allowing detailed further consideration of matters raised in the Call-Ins, for the decision to be referred back to the Cabinet, as the executive decision-maker in this case, rather than to the Full Council.

Following full discussion, the Committee therefore proceeded to agree to refer the matter back to the Cabinet, as the decision maker, to reconsider its decision of 14 February before taking a final decision, as set out in paragraph 10(b) of the Call-In Procedure rules set out in Part 4 Section H of the Council's Constitution. To assist with this, the Committee makes a number of recommendations to Cabinet, as follows.

3. Recommendations

The Overview and Scrutiny Committee makes the following recommendations in respect of the decision taken by Cabinet on 14 February to agree a preferred bidder and move to the Preferred Bidder Stage

- a) That Cabinet make a firm commitment that there be no allocation of any sites to the HDV without a full Equalities Impact Assessment being undertaken for each site.
- b) That Cabinet agree that any allocation of Category 1 sites include specific policies, including around eviction, to guarantee a right of return for residents and leaseholders on the same terms and conditions. This is to be agreed with the tenants and leaseholders affected, and to take into account the housing conditions and requirements of those residents.
- c) That Cabinet ensure that there is no agreement with any HDV partner without effective arrangements to ensure value for money in respect of any construction exclusivity arrangements, on a site by site basis, including undertaking an independent assessment to demonstrate its value for money to the Council.
- d) That Cabinet ensure that there is no loss of target rent properties on Category 1 sites and should also seek to ensure the provision of 50% genuine affordable housing on those sites.
- e) That the Council enter into discussions with relevant trade unions regarding historical allegations of blacklisting involving the preferred bidder and to ensure that relevant mitigations are put in place.
- f) That Cabinet ensure that arrangements be put in place with the construction subsidiary of the HDV partner to provide local employment and training opportunities; particularly in respect of equalities groups, including job support and training for disabled people.

4. Background

The papers considered by the Overview and Scrutiny are attached to provide the background to this paper. They are:

- Copies of the two Call-In requests
- Excerpt from the draft minutes of the Cabinet Meeting held on 14 February 2017
- Report to Cabinet 14 February 2017 – Haringey Development Vehicle – Appointment of Preferred Bidder
- Report of the Monitoring Officer
- Report of the Director of Regeneration, Planning and Development
- EXEMPT report to Cabinet 14 February 2017 – Haringey Development Vehicle – Appointment of Preferred Bidder and Exempt Cabinet minutes 14th February 2017[Item 6 on the agenda]