

Extraordinary Cabinet – Meeting held on Friday, 6th October, 2017.

Present:- Councillors Munawar (Chair), Hussain (Vice-Chair), Ajaib, Arvind Dhaliwal, Matloob, Nazir and Sharif

Also present under Rule 30:- Councillors Davis, Swindlehurst and Dar

Apologies for Absence:- Councillors Bedi and Bal

PART 1

41. Declarations of Interest

Councillor Hussain declared that the site was in her ward and that she had spoken to residents of Nova House recently but this would not prejudice her decision.

Councillor Ajaib declared that the site was in his ward.

Councillor Munawar declared that his son worked for arvato.

42. Exclusion of Press and Public

Resolved – That the press and public be excluded from the meeting during consideration of the items in Part 2 of the Agenda, as they involved the likely disclosure of exempt information relating to the financial or business affairs of any particular person (including the Authority holding the information) as defined in Paragraph 3 of Part 1 of Schedule 12A of the Local Government Act 1972 (amended).

The following is a summary of the matters considered during Part II of the agenda.

43. Strategic Acquisition of Town Centre Site

The Cabinet agreed the principle of the acquisition of the company owning the freehold of Nova House, 1 Buckingham Gardens for the protection of the safety and the interests of residents of Nova House.

Nova House had failed the tests of ACM cladding instigated by the Government following the fire at Grenfell Tower on 14th June 2017 and further investigation had revealed other significant deficiencies with fire safety. The Council had been working closely with the Royal Berkshire Fire & Rescue Service and had been in discussions with the current owners about the measures and remediation works required to the building. There had a been a loss of confidence in the capacity of the current owners to take the necessary action.

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It was agreed that the Council should take a proactive approach by approving delegated powers to acquire the freehold, subject to due diligence, and to undertake the works required in a properly planned manner.

Chair

(Note: The Meeting opened at 3.30 pm and closed at 4.47 pm)