

# ITEM 7b

## MINUTE EXTRACT

Time began	6.00pm
Time ended	7.55pm

### **COUNCIL CABINET 27 OCTOBER 2009**

Present: Councillor Jones (Chair)  
Councillors Allen, Care, Carr, Skelton, Naitta and Troup

In attendance Councillors Jennings, Williamson and Holmes

This record of decisions was published on 29 October 2009. The key decisions set out in this record will come into force and may be implemented on the expiry of five clear days unless a key decision is called in.

## Matters Referred

### 98/09 Exeter House

The Council Cabinet considered a report of the Community Commission.

On March 17 2009, Council Cabinet resolved to authorise the spending of £350,000 on a scheme to refurbish Exeter House and to revoke the Initial Demolition Notice dated 20 September 2007. On 21 April 2009 Council Cabinet reaffirmed this decision. On 20 October 2009 it was decided at a Housing and Environment Cabinet Member meeting to authorise the serving of the Revocation Notice, to authorise the refurbishment of Exeter House at a new cost of £450,000 following changes to the proposed scheme at the recommendation of the Fire Safety Officer, and to refer the matter to the commission for it to report any comments to Council Cabinet.

The Community Commission report recommended that the Council Cabinet should not proceed with the refurbishment plans on the basis that:

- The size and style of the units was considered unlikely to be fit-for-purpose in the longer term
- The allocation policy meant the units were only likely to be sought by and offered to a narrow range of applicants in terms of socio-economic background, thus not promoting social cohesion
- The flood risk was known to be higher than previously thought, meaning it did not make good sense to increase the population in the affected area
- That it was not the best use of £350,000 and in light of the increased cost to £450,000 and reduced number of second-floor units following the recommendations of the Fire Safety Officer, the proposed refurbishment was an even less desirable use of Housing Revenue Account Reserves.

It was noted that in reaching the previous decisions, the Council Cabinet had considered that the city continued to experience high levels of unmet need for affordable housing. The report considered at the Housing and Environment Cabinet Member Meeting on 20 October 2009 highlighted that there were currently some 10,242 households actively seeking accommodation in the city.

**Decision**

To reaffirm the decisions made at the Housing and Environment Cabinet Member Meeting on 20 October 2009.

- EXTRACT ENDS -