

Ref:

Called in

Yes/No

**THE THANET DISTRICT COUNCIL**

**RECORD OF DECISION OF CABINET**

Name of Cabinet Member:

Councillor Rick Everitt

Relevant Portfolio:

Financial Services

Date of Decision:

Thursday, 01 May 2014

Subject:

Dreamland

Key Decision

Yes

In Forward Plan

No

Brief summary of matter:

The council holds the freehold interest of the Dreamland Site, part of which will be operated as an amusement park. Council acquired the site after a public inquiry and lengthy court proceedings, which followed the making of the compulsory purchase order. One of the purposes of the CPO is to enable the delivery of an amusement park of a heritage nature and the Council is not able to operate the park itself. It is now in a position to tender this part of the estate and the Cabinet paper sought approval to procure a suitable third party to operate the amusement park.

Decision made:

Cabinet approved the procurement of a suitable third party to operate the amusement park in line with the process detailed in the Cabinet report.

Reasons for decision:

Noting that the Council does not have the skills to run an amusement park the decision was given to ensure an appropriately qualified third party can take the strategy forward and deliver the regeneration outcomes required.

Alternatives considered and why rejected:

The Council could set up a legal entity to in part run the amusement park but it is considered that the council does not have the required skill set to do this and is therefore not in the public interest to proceed along this route.

Details of any conflict of interest declared by any executive Member who has been consulted and of any dispensation granted by the Standards Committee:

None

Author of Officer report:

Edwina Crowley, Head of Economic Development, Community Services

Background papers

Rule 15(l) OSPR - Dreamland Service Concession Contract Cabinet 1 May 2014  
Council Chairman's Call-In Exemption Consent - Dreamland  
Cabinet Paper - Dreamland Disposal Process  
Annex 1

Statement if decision is an urgent one and therefore not subject to call-in:

Given the timescales for the procurement and award of a public concession contract and the need to have a competent operator in place in time for the planned opening of the Dreamland Amusement Park in April 2015, it is proposed that the decision should be excluded from 'Call-In' as the delay caused by the Call-In process could potentially delay the commencement of the procurement exercise by at least one cycle thus placing at risk the timely award of a concession contract in time for the planned opening of the Park.

As the potential delay associated with Call-In could prevent the timely award of a concession contract to a suitably qualified Park Operator in time for the for the planned opening of the Dreamland Amusement Park in April 2015, it can reasonably be said that the delay likely to be caused by Call-In would seriously prejudice the Council's interests and the public interest.

Last date for call in:

N/A