

Ref:

Called in

Yes/No

**THE THANET DISTRICT COUNCIL**

**RECORD OF DECISION OF CABINET**

Relevant Portfolio:

Councillor John Townend, Cabinet Member for  
Financial Services and Estates

Date of Decision:

16 November 2017

Subject:

Asset Disposal Programme 2017-18

Key Decision

Yes

In Forward Plan

Yes

Brief summary of matter:

Effective asset management is essential to meeting the Council's priorities. The disposal of surplus property is an important part of the council's drive to rationalise the estate and by doing so create an efficient and sustainable estate that meets local needs. Forrester's Hall requires substantial capital funding to bring it up to a reasonable state of repair and the Council does not have the funding to complete this work. Without investment the Council is not able to grant new tenancies, and therefore the premises is considered surplus. This paper considers the opportunity to sell the property giving first refusal to Trustees of East Kent Mencap.

Decision made:

1. To proceed with the disposal of Forrester's Hall at market value with first refusal given to the Trustees of East Kent Mencap noting that the offer will be will be subject to the sale completing within nine months of the date of the Cabinet decision.
2. After nine months the Council will be free to sale the premises to another organisation at market value.

Reasons for decision:

Without significant capital funding to undertake major refurbishment works the Council is not able to let the building. This means that there will be minimal income in 2018 and the costs to hold the building will increase.

Alternatives considered and why rejected:

The Council could retain the premises but it would be unlettable and therefore fall into further disrepair, this would not support the Corporate aims and is therefore rejected.

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

N/A

Author and date of Officer report:

Tim Howes, Director of Corporate Governance and Monitoring Officer

Background papers

No applicable

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

None

Last date for call in:

27 November 2017