

## EXTRAORDINARY CABINET

### Minutes of the extraordinary meeting held on 29 October 2015 at 7.00 pm in Council Chamber, Council Offices, Cecil Street, Margate, Kent.

**Present:** Councillor Christopher T Wells (Chairman); Councillors: L Fairbrass, Brimm, Crow-Brown, Stummer-Schmertzing and Townend

**In Attendance:** Councillors: Ashbee, Bambridge, Bayford, Braidwood, Campbell, G Coleman-Cooke, K Coleman-Cooke, Connor, Curran, Dellar, Dennis, Dexter, Edwards, Elenor, J Fairbrass, Game, I Gregory, K Gregory, Grove, Howes, Jaye-Jones, Johnston, Leys, Martin, Matterface, Partington, Piper, Potts, Rogers, D Saunders, M Saunders, Shonk, Smith, Taylor-Smith, Taylor and Tomlinson

#### **299. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE**

There were no apologies from Cabinet Members at the meeting.

#### **300. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

There were no declarations of interest.

#### **301. MANSTON AIRPORT**

Cabinet considered a detailed report by the Director of Corporate Governance & Monitoring Officer and additional supportive background information presented to the meeting by the Leader of Council regarding the process undertaken to date to confirm that RiverOak were a viable Compulsory Purchasing Order (CPO) partner. The meeting was advised that a number of meetings were held between representatives of RiverOak and Thanet District Council (TDC) to assess whether progress had been made in moving towards an agreed position regarding the indemnity partnership arrangement between the two organisations.

During these discussions, the Council sought advice from specialist barristers with experience in handling development planning and Compulsory Purchasing Order cases. The fundamental issues TDC wanted to ensure were addressed were that any viable CPO indemnity partner needed to present to Council verifiable evidence that they had in place adequate financial resources to support the CPO process to its conclusion and that Manston Airport would become operational as an airport as soon as was realistically possible at no residual cost to Council.

Cabinet noted that whilst some evidence was presented to TDC by RiverOak, not all key financial evidence was submitted to Council for verification to ensure that a successful CPO process could be pursued by Council and RiverOak. They also observed that the information presented to TDC by RiverOak as evidence towards fulfilling the requirements of the Government Circular 06/2004 to justify the public interest to be derived from carrying out a CPO as measured against the current Manston Airport land owner plans for the site was inadequate as highlighted in the Cabinet report.

Cabinet concluded that it was important to note that the purpose of the meeting was to make a decision based on the evidence presented to TDC by RiverOak whether at the present time RiverOak could be considered a suitable CPO partner.

The following Members spoke under Council Procedure 24.1:

Councillor Martin;  
Councillor K. Gregory;  
Councillor Rev. Piper;  
Councillor Taylor-Smith;  
Councillor Campbell;  
Councillor Grove;  
Councillor Partington;  
Councillor Ashbee on behalf of Councillor Collins;  
Councillor Ashbee;  
Councillor Smith;  
Councillor Curran;  
Councillor Bayford.

Councillor Wells proposed, Councillor Stummer-Schmertzling seconded and Cabinet agreed the following:

1. That having reviewed its position, details of which are contained in the Cabinet report, that no further action be taken at the present time on a CPO of Manston Airport, on the basis that RiverOak do not fulfil the requirements of the Council for an indemnity partner;
2. To note that this is the second time that RiverOak have not fulfilled the requirements of the Council for an indemnity partner.

Meeting concluded: 8.25 pm