
REPORT BACK TO COUNCIL - PETITION RELATING TO PLEASURAMA SITE

To: **Council – 11 July 2013**

Main Portfolio Area: **Democratic Services and Scrutiny Manager**

Classification: **Unrestricted**

Ward: **Eastcliff Site**

Summary: **To report back to Council on a petition from the Friends of Ramsgate Seafront, requesting the Council to, “stop the freehold of the Pleasurama being sold”.**

For Information

1.0 Introduction and Background

1.1 At its meeting on 18 April 2013, Council received a petition containing 1072 valid signatures from the Friends of Ramsgate Seafront, requesting Council to:

“Stop the Freehold of the Pleasurama site being sold”,

1.2 The petition also stated:

“We the undersigned believe the proposed sale of the Pleasurama freehold to the current developer is an unacceptable solution, since this developer has lost public trust and confidence and this proposal will not achieve the stated aim, of regenerating the Ramsgate Seafront. We now call on Thanet District Council to dismiss this developer and this proposal ...”
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1.3 Upon debating the petition, Council resolved to refer it to the Overview and Scrutiny Panel.

1.4 Consequently, the Overview and Scrutiny Panel, upon considering the petition on 23 April 2013, agreed the following:

1. To set up a Pleasurama Site Development Task & Finish Group as a priority scrutiny project for 2013/14;
2. Officers to draft the terms of reference.

1.5 The decisions taken by the Overview & Scrutiny Panel were referred to in an officer's report on options for future action, considered by Cabinet at its extraordinary meeting on 29 May 2013. At that meeting, it was agreed:

1. That Cabinet supports the setting up of the Overview and Scrutiny Panel task and finish group, and advises that the following considerations should be taken into account in proposing a course of action for the Council:
 - A focus primarily on the key issues to help guide the way forward for the Council as a whole

- Cabinet's support for the work, including the cost of seeking confidential appropriate legal and commercial property advice
- Consideration of action moving forward that may involve legal processes needs to be done in a way that does not prejudice the position of the Council in a court action
- Legal, financial and time risks associated with any proposed course of action are considered with care, including those associated with alternative developments
- Seeking an expeditious result so that Cabinet can move forward on this site.

2. That Cabinet expresses its strong dissatisfaction with the progress made by the developer in the last four months to move forward with this development, and signals a shift into a new phase of the development in which it wishes to see robust alternatives to the current arrangements being developed and acted upon by the Council.

2.0 The Current Situation

2.1 Council is asked to note the decisions taken by the Overview & Scrutiny Panel and Cabinet, as referred to at paragraphs 1.4 and 1.5 above.

3.0 Corporate Implications

3.1 Financial and VAT

3.1.1 As detailed in the report to Cabinet on 29 May 2013

3.2 Legal

3.2.1 As detailed in the report to Cabinet on 29 May 2013

3.3 Corporate

3.3.1 As detailed in the report to Cabinet on 29 May 2013

3.4 Equity and Equalities

3.4.1 As detailed in the report to Cabinet on 29 May 2013

4.0 Recommendations

4.1 This report is for information only

5.0 Decision Making Process

5.1 This report is for information only

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Annex List

None	N/A
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Background Papers

Title	Details of where to access copy
Petition	Democratic Services

Corporate Consultation Undertaken

Finance	n/a
Legal	n/a