

SOUTHEND-ON-SEA BOROUGH COUNCIL

Meeting of General Purposes Committee

Date: Thursday, 19th November, 2020

Place: Virtual Meeting - MS Teams

- Present:** Councillor M Dent (Chair)
Councillors N Ward (Vice-Chair), A Chalk, T Cox, N Folkard, M Kelly,
M Stafford and A Thompson
- In Attendance:** Councillors K Robinson
J Williams, L Gibbins, G Gilbert, R Harris, A Richards, R Pennington,
S Dolling, E Anslow, S Newman and S Wheeler
- Start/End Time:** 6.00 - 7.00 pm

556 Apologies for Absence

Apologies for absence were received from Councillor Jarvis (no substitute).

557 Declarations of Interest

There were no declarations of interest at this meeting.

558 Exclusion of the Public

Resolved:-

That, under Section 100(A)(4) of the Local Government Act 1972, the public be excluded from the meeting for the item of business set out below, on the grounds that it would involve the likely disclosure of exempt information as defined in Part 1 of Schedule 12A to the Act and that the public interest in maintaining the exemption outweighs the public interest in disclosing the information.

559 Report to the Trustees of the Beecroft Trust

The Committee considered a report of Steve Newman, Interim Team Leader Corporate Property & Asset Management, Rosemary Pennington, Head of Arts and Cultural Wellbeing and Laurie Gibbins, Solicitor and introduced by the Executive Director (Legal and Democratic Services) so that the Committee can make recommendations to Full Council in its capacity as the sole trustee of The Beecroft Art Trust ("The Trust):

The Committee asked a number of questions which were responded to by officers. The Committee also noted that the report and the Committee's recommendations would be submitted to Place Scrutiny Committee on 23rd November 2020 for its consideration.

Resolved:

1. That it be noted that the scheme to provide affordable artist studios in the Former Gallery was unachievable and unviable.
2. That the Council as Trustee of the Beecroft Art Trust be recommended to sell the Former Gallery and the Council should be offered first refusal to purchase at full market value, subject to charity law requirements.
3. That the Council as Trustee of the Beecroft Art Trust be recommended to retain the Beecroft art collection in the former library building on an ad hoc basis, pending a more permanent solution which should be possible once the proceeds of sale from the Former Gallery have been received.
4. That the Council as Trustee agrees that all reasonable and proper costs expended by the Council on behalf of the Trust, associated with the sale of the Former Gallery and the acquisition of an alternative property, will be met from the proceeds of sale of the Former Gallery, subject to the Charity Commission's consent.
5. That the Council as Trustee seeks to amend the Commission Scheme dated the 18th February 1980 to remove the Former Gallery from the Commission Scheme and ensure the Trust continues to adhere to the Objects of the Trust.

Chair: _____