

Sale of Furzehill

1. PURPOSE AND RECOMMENDATIONS

Report Type:	Public for Decision
Purpose of Report:	To update the Chairman of the Cabinet Committee (One Year Strategy) regarding the sale of Furzehill
Recommendations:	It is RECOMMENDED that: The Chairman notes the report
Portfolio holder:	Cllr Ray Bryan
Wards:	District-wide
Contact Officer:	Ian Milner

2. BACKGROUND

- 2.1. The sale of the Furzehill site was agreed by Full Council and in October 2016 a preferred bidder for the site was identified.
- 2.2. Since then significant work has been undertaken by officers to try and complete the sale. Unfortunately, a number of issues relating to the site have emerged and have required resolving before the preferred bidder was prepared to exchange contracts.
- 2.3. These issues include;
 - (a) Resolving a right of way dispute
 - (b) Ecological surveys
 - (c) Site Drainage
 - (d) An existing lease of part of the land
 - (e) Japanese Knotweed
 - (f) Historical Covenants
- 2.4. These issues required significant liaison with third parties including DCC, Wessex Water, covenant beneficiaries and the owner of the leased land. This has meant that progress of the sale has been at the pace of others which has created delays that a 'clean site' would potentially not have encountered.
- 2.5. Following an informal meeting of Cabinet a review of the position was undertaken and alternative options were asked to be considered. These alternatives are being explored and the Portfolio Holder for Performance and the Leader are being kept abreast of progress. Due to the commercial sensitivity of the sale further details will remain confidential.

- 2.6 One thing is clear is that the ambition for the sale to take place during the existence of East Dorset District Council will not now be achieved and it will be for Dorset Council to now complete the sale of the site or implement an alternative proposal.

3. IMPLICATIONS

2018-2019 Strategic Priorities

- 3.1. The matter under consideration impacts upon the key priorities of the Council's One Year Strategy in the following areas:-

- **Asset management**
 - Asset optimisation
- **Change & Transformation**
 - One Year Strategy
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Legal

- 3.2. None

Environmental

- 3.3. None

Financial and Risk

- 3.4. None

Equalities

- 3.5. None

Appendices:

None

Background Papers:

None