

STOCKTON-ON-TEES BOROUGH COUNCIL

CABINET RECOMMENDATIONS

PROFORMA

Cabinet Meeting30th September 2010

1. Title of Item/Report

Disposal of the Former Saltergill School Site

2. Record of the Decision

Members considered a report relating to the sale of the former Saltergill School.

Members were reminded that on the 1 October 2009 Cabinet agreed the sale of the former Saltergill School site on the grounds that the sale was likely to contribute to the economic well-being of the area. Following this decision an unsuccessful bidder complained to the Local Government Ombudsman about the Council's procedures and the way in which the Council had handled the disposal.

It was explained that the Local Government Ombudsman had investigated the complaint and had expressed the view that there was a lack of clarity in the Council's dealings with the unsuccessful bidder and the terms on which the Council were intending to dispose of the land. The Local Government Ombudsman had also indicated that in her view the specific social, economic or environmental benefits that might reasonably be anticipated from the sale should have been spelled out with sufficient clarity in the report to Cabinet.

Officers had acknowledged the Local Government Ombudsman comments and agreed to review procedures for the disposal of surplus land. In order to resolve the complaint officers had agreed to apologise to the complainant for a lack of clarity in correspondence with him, make a payment of £250 to acknowledge his time and trouble in making the complaint and to pay his reasonable legal expenses.

RESOLVED that the report be noted.

3. Reasons for the Decision

To inform members of the Local Government Ombudsman's investigation.

4. Alternative Options Considered and Rejected

None

5. Declared (Cabinet Member) Conflicts of Interest

None

6. Details of any Dispensations

Not applicable

7. Date and Time by which Call In must be executed

By no later than midnight on Friday 8 October 2010.

Proper Officer
04 May 2010