

COUNCIL

24th September 2015

PRESENT – Councillor B. Jones (the Deputy Mayor); Councillors Baldwin, Carson, Copeland, Cossins, Coultas, Crichlow, Crudass, Crumbie, Curry, Dixon, Donoghue, Galletley, Grundy, Harker, I. Haszeldine, L. Haszeldine, C. L. B. Hughes, L. Hughes, Johnson, Mrs. D. Jones, Kane, Kelley, Kelly, Knowles, Lawton, Lee, Lister, McEwan, Mills, Newall, K. Nicholson, M. Nicholson, Regan, E. A. Richmond, A. J. Scott, Stenson, Storr, C. Taylor, J. Taylor, Tostevin, Wallis and York. (43)

APOLOGIES – The Mayor; Councillors Mrs. Culley, Lyonette, S. Richmond, Mrs. H. Scott and Wright. (6)

ABSENT – Councillor Cartwright. (1)

23. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST – There were no declarations of interest reported at the meeting.

24. RELOCATION OF CATTLE MARKET FROM CLIFTON ROAD – The Director of Economic Growth and the Director of Neighbourhood Services and Resources submitted a report (previously circulated) requesting that consideration be given to the relocation of the cattle market from the existing Clifton Road site to Humbleton Farm, and the approval of the associated financial package required from the Council in order to facilitate the relocation.

The submitted report presented the issues surrounding the relocation of the cattle market from the existing Clifton Road site to Humbleton Farm, as proposed by Darlington Farmers Auction Mart (DFAM), outlined the Council's obligations pertaining to the provision and maintenance of a market and market place for livestock, and highlighted the conflict between the continued operations of the cattle market and neighbouring residential use. The submitted report also stated that DFAM had secured, in principle, the necessary private sector funding required to fund the relocation, however the nature of the agreement meant that there was a short term cash flow issue which necessitated a bridging loan of £2 million from the Council.

It was stated that Cabinet had considered and approved, in principle, the financial support and the relocation of the cattle market from Clifton Road at its meeting on 8 September 2015.

The submitted report highlighted that the resolution had to be passed by not less than two thirds of the Members present voting in order that the cattle market could be relocated.

RESOLVED – (a) That the relocation of the Cattle Market facility from Clifton Road to Humbleton Farm be approved, in accordance with the provisions of the Darlington Extension and Improvement Act 1872.

(b) That the ongoing discussions between DFAM and the Council (as set out in the submitted report) be noted, and that the conclusion of the outstanding matters, including the date of the relocation, be delegated to the Director of Economic Growth in consultation with the Portfolio Holder.

(c) That a bridging loan of £2 million be provided to DFAM in line with the principles set out in paragraph 13(a) of the submitted report.

(Note: Over two thirds of the Members present at the meeting voted in favour of the above recommendation).

REASONS – (a) In the interests of facilitating the relocation of the Cattle Market from Clifton Road.

(b) To improve the residential amenity for the properties around Clifton Road.

(c) To make available a brownfield site in a sustainable location for suitable development in line with the Local Plan.

(d) To support the business growth opportunities for the agricultural sector which result from new facility being delivered.

(e) In order to ensure the Council complies with its obligations under the Darlington Extension and Improvement Act.