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## **Performance and Finance Scrutiny Committee**

**27 November 2023**

### **Property and Assets: Declaration Surplus FP04 23/24 – Focus for Scrutiny**

**Report by Director of Law and Assurance**

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#### **Summary**

A proposal for the Cabinet Member for Finance and Property to declare land surplus to operational requirements has been published. This includes five assets, one of which is part of the Tangmere Airfield perimeter track. A request to call-in this decision for scrutiny has been accepted by the Director of Law and Assurance as the Council's Monitoring Officer. The call-in request only relates to the proposal relating to the Tangmere Airfield perimeter track. The Committee is therefore asked to scrutinise the proposal set out in the decision report attached (Annex 1).

#### **Focus for scrutiny**

Key lines of enquiry for the Committee include (by reference to the call-in request):

- (1) Whether due consideration has been given to opportunities to promote active travel through the management and planning for this area of land.
- (2) In considering future options for this site, how environmental, climate change and transport aims have been balanced against budgetary considerations.
- (3) Whether it is important to give fuller consideration to improving the public rights of way network as part of the decision-making for this site.
- (4) How best to ensure the future maintenance of this part of the perimeter track to a standard that ensures the long-term viability of the recycling site.

The Chairman will summarise the output of the debate for consideration by the Committee.

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#### **1. Details**

- 1.1 A proposed decision (FP04 (23/24)) was published for the Cabinet Member for Finance and Property on 9 November 2023 in relation to the declaration of land which is surplus to operational requirements (Annex 1). The Cabinet Member is being asked to endorse the declaration that five assets are surplus to service operational requirements, including part of the Tangmere Airfield perimeter track.
- 1.2 Decisions to declare Council land and assets surplus to service requirements are a first stage in any planning for the future use of the land or its

treatment by the Council. They do not amount to any final decision as to the future disposal or other action in relation to the asset.

- 1.3 A request to call-in this decision for scrutiny has been accepted by the Director of Law and Assurance. The call-in request only relates to the proposal relating to the Tangmere Airfield perimeter track (see plan at Appendix A). The decision to declare the other sites listed in the decision report as surplus is therefore proceeding.
- 1.4 The call-in request was made by Councillor Simon Oakley (the local member), with the support of three other councillors (Councillors Andrew Baldwin, Kevin Boram and Keir Greenway). Key reasons given for the call-in request were:
  - a) Opportunities should be taken to improve the provision of alternative modes of transport, including through pedestrian and cycle access routes.
  - b) The need to improve active travel links between major housing growth areas in the Barnham area, Tangmere and the east side of Chichester.
  - c) The proposal should include provision for improvements to the local Public Rights of Way network (a need recognised in the District Council's Local Plan and the Tangmere Neighbourhood Plan) and reflect the County Council's environmental, climate change and transport agendas.
- 1.5 The specific outcomes being sought in the call-in request were that the proposed decision should:
  - a) Make provision for the retention of land along the Tangmere Airfield perimeter track to enable and provide for additions and improvements to the Public Rights of Way network (and specifically a new bridleway between the south end of City Fields Way and the east end of Footpath 3582 and the upgrade of the full length of FP3582 to Bridleway status); and
  - b) Make clear as to what provisions, in any future sale of the remaining land, will be sought and secured to ensure the onward maintenance of the perimeter track, between the south end of City Fields Way and the entrance to the green waste recycling site, to a standard that ensures the long-term viability of the recycling site.
- 1.6 The call-in request was accepted as there has been no previous scrutiny of the proposals and there are legitimate matters for consideration prior to the proposals being determined. The decision report is appended. Scrutiny should focus on the proposals contained in the attached report.

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## **Appendices**

- Annex 1 – Decision Report ([Ref FP04 23/24](#)) to declare assets surplus to operational requirements.
- Appendix A – Site Plan

## **Background Papers**

None