

Newport Unlimited

Minutes of the meeting of the Additional Board held on 21 April 2005

Present: Grant Watson (Chairman)
Ed Bampton, David Bowler, Nigel Campbell, Chris Freegard, Graham Moore,

Apologies: Councillor Bob Bright, Councillor Ken Critchley, Gerry Keighley, Professor James Lusty, Bob Macey, Nic Neal, Karen Thomas, Andrew Wilkinson and Don Wilkes

1. **Declarations of Interest**

Members considered the issue of personal interests by board members.

It was accepted that where an issue was under discussion where a board member had a pecuniary interest, it would be expected that the Board member would disclose the interest and withdraw from the meeting whilst that specific item was under discussion.

Where there was a non – pecuniary interest, it was agreed the interest should be disclosed. This would apply if the member's interest was in connection with any bidders or tenderers in whatever capacity or if the member was aware of any connection of his or her organisation with a bidder or tenderer.

2. **Attendance at Events**

The Chairman had received a letter from a City Councillor asking whether it was necessary for the Chief Executive of Newport Unlimited to attend an event in Cannes and asking what benefit it would bring to the people of Newport.

The Chairman was content that attendance at the event would have a positive outcome for the City and it was noted that a paper on outcomes from the event would be presented to the Board.

It was agreed that for future events, authorisation via the Board ought to be sought. The Chairman would respond to the Councillor on the specific matter raised.

3. City Centre Retail Scheme

At its last meeting, the Board recommended to the City Council's Cabinet that two specific schemes should be eliminated from the selection process for the retail scheme and further information sought and further analysis made of the remaining three bids.

The Cabinet had agreed to shortlist two schemes for further evaluation and to eliminate the remaining three short listed bids from the tender process.

This meeting of the Board allowed Members to further examine the merits of either of the remaining schemes.

It was accepted that the Cabinet would face important decisions in balancing the design and financial aspects of the bids.

The various elements of each bid were considered very carefully and in detail. In particular attention was paid to the financial offers and how they were made up. The Cabinet needed to be minded of the long term benefits of each scheme and the manner in which issues such as public realm had been addressed in each bid.

It was considered that whilst one scheme articulated a significantly higher financial offer to the City Council, the other bid was drafted differently and it was arguable that a significant additional amount could be added to that bid if account was taken to the different way in which the appraisal had been set out. It would be important for like for like information to be put to the Cabinet.

King Sturge was asked to draft an additional paper for the Cabinet, which provided a better understanding of the nature of the bids. The paper would need to draw out the issues considered by the Board during its detailed examination of the two financial bids. In particular the different ways in which the appraisals had been calculated needed to be articulated.

Board Members considered that the decision for the Cabinet remained as a very difficult one and wished the Cabinet well in its deliberations.