

**35. DECISION 01104224 – GRAYS TOWN CENTRE REGENERATION VISION**

The Leader reminded Members that Appendix C to the report had been classed as being exempt. He advised all in attendance at the meeting that the Cabinet would seek to exclude the press and public to consider the information presented within this document.

The Cabinet Member for Regeneration, Highways & Transportation introduced the report, which provided an update on the work currently underway in Grays and which sought approval for:

- a vision for the regeneration of Grays to serve as a basis for an action plan/strategy
- for further development of regeneration projects.

Councillor Gledhill asked for the estimated costs of refurbishing the State cinema to a condition where it was suitable for leisure and entertainment purposes.

The Cabinet Member informed Councillor Gledhill that the information he sought could be found in the exempt appendix to the report and that the Cabinet would move into exempt session later in the meeting to consider this.

Councillor Gledhill commented that the exempt appendix outlined a figure and he asked whether it was fair for the responsibility for this to be with one Member. The Cabinet Member explained that this was not the way the Cabinet worked and that consultation would take place before any decision was taken.

Councillor Gaywood commended the recommendations in the report and, as her portfolio included parking, she offered to provide free parking on Saturdays in Grays to support the provision of specialist markets.

The Leader highlighted that with the new campus due to open to 3,500 students in September 2014, and with the funding that had been committed to the refurbishment of the Magistrates Court, public funding in the region of £50m would be coming into Grays. He asked the Cabinet Member how the Council could harness the extra footfall that would be coming into the town to make the best use of the conditions.

The Cabinet Member advised the Leader that he had spoken to local businesses and that there were lots of exciting opportunities for businesses in Grays. He added that he had also spoken to the Planning Team to see if it could be made easier for businesses to submit planning applications.

**RESOLVED:**

**That Cabinet:**

- 1 Approve the draft vision for Grays set out at paragraph 4.4 of the report and delegate authority for finalising the vision, following a final round of consultation with stakeholders, to the Assistant Chief Executive in consultation with the Portfolio Holder for Regeneration, Highways and Transportation;**
- 2 Acknowledge the work completed to date considering the potential to enhance the public realm in Grays South and support the continued discussions with Network Rail and others to secure the implementation of measures to upgrade the rail station and rail crossing as detailed within the report;**
- 3 Acknowledge the outcome of the enquiries made into the use of the Hogg Lane South site and support the development of proposals for its reuse which support the vision for Grays. These will be brought to a future meeting of the Cabinet for further consideration;**
- 4 Approve the Heads of Terms in appendix E for a £1.4m loan from Local Enterprise Partnership's Growing Places Fund to support the costs of refurbishing the Magistrates Court to provide business units.**
- 5 Approve the recommendations contained within exempt Appendix C.**

Reason for Decision - as stated in the report  
This decision is subject to call-in