

Agenda Item:

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Not for Publication: 10.4(3) under the Council's access to Information Procedure Rules Annex 1, Appendices 1 and 2.

Report of the Head of Scrutiny Support and Member Development

Scrutiny Board (Culture and Leisure)

Date: 10 December 2007

Subject: Roundhay Mansion

Electoral Wards Affected: All

Specific Implications For:

Ethnic minorities

Women

Disabled people

Narrowing the Gap

1.0 Introduction

- 1.1 At the previous meeting of the Board (12 November 2007), the desire to receive an update on issues associated with Roundhay Mansion was restated.
- 1.2 Attached at Annex 1 is the Executive Board report considered on 17 October 2007. This details the marketing exercise of Roundhay Mansion that was undertaken and subsequent outcomes. It also presents the options considered by the Executive Board in order to take forward the letting of the commercial element of the property. The Executive Board subsequently resolved:

That the site be remarketed on the basis of option 6 as referred to above and as set out in the report, following further investigation of costs of refurbishment and that a further report on offers received be brought to this Board at the appropriate time.

2.0 Confidentiality of Executive Board report, Appendices 1 and 2

- 2.1 When presented to the Executive Board, it was stated that information contained in Appendices 1 and 2 relates to the financial or business affairs of a particular person, and of the Council. This information is not publicly available from the statutory

registers of information kept in respect of certain companies and charities. It is considered that since this information was obtained through inviting offers for the property/land then it is not in the public interest to disclose this information at this point in time as this could lead to random competing bids which would undermine this method of inviting bids and affect the integrity of disposing of property/land by this process. Also it is considered that the release of such information would or would be likely to prejudice the Council's commercial interests in relation to other similar transactions in that prospective purchasers of other similar properties about the nature and level of offers which may prove acceptable to the Council. It is considered that whilst there may be a public interest in disclosure, much of this information will be publicly available from the Land Registry following completion of this transaction and consequently the public interest in maintaining the exemption outweighs the public interest in disclosing this information at this point in time. It is therefore considered that these elements of the report should be treated as exempt under Rule 10.4.3 of the Access to Information Procedure rules.

2.2 Given the Executive decision to remarket the site, the position detailed in 2.1 (above) prevails at this current point in time.

3.0 Recommendation

3.1 The Board is requested to consider the information presented in the attached Executive Board report, alongside any details discussed at the meeting, and determine any areas for further action/ scrutiny.