

MEETING OF COMMISSIONER KENNY
Monday, 3rd August, 2015

Present:- Commissioner Kenny.

24. WHILST THE REQUIREMENTS OF THE LOCAL GOVERNMENT ACT 1972 DO NOT APPLY TO THIS MEETING IT IS STILL PROPOSED TO DETERMINE IF THE FOLLOWING MATTERS ARE TO BE CONSIDERED UNDER THE CATEGORIES SUGGESTED IN ACCORDANCE WITH THAT ACT.

25. MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETINGS HELD ON 6TH, 10TH AND 21ST JULY, 2015.

The decision sheet and minutes of Commissioner Kenny's previous meetings held on 6th, 10th and 21st July, 2015, were considered and accepted as accurate records.

26. SITE FOR A TOWN CENTRE HE CAMPUS.

Consideration was given to a report submitted by the Economic Development Manager that outlined the proposed disposal of the Doncaster Site to Rotherham College for the construction of a Higher Education (H.E.) Campus.

Rotherham was the only town of significant size within the Sheffield City Region without a Higher Education Centre which partially contributed to level 4 and above attainment in Rotherham being 12.7 percentage points below the national average and 4.8 percentage points below the regional average. This level of underachievement needed to be addressed to provide the skilled workforce necessary to attract inward investors and grow existing businesses.

The College had proactively driven the development of Higher Education within the confines of HEFCE's funding constraints and the significant increase in student numbers had led to 53% increase in funding over a 3 year period. For the 2015/16 academic year the HEFCE constraints had been removed and the College had developed further Higher Education programmes to continue its programme of development of high quality local provision.

The HE campus would need to be in close proximity to the College's existing buildings. The preferences would be for the building to be open for the 2017/18 academic year with a requirement of the Capital Skills funding that work must have started on site by no later than September 2016.

The report set out the 3 potential sites with the positive and negatives for each.

It was noted that the Campus and the potential locations had been discussed by the Advisory Cabinet, Labour Group and Opposition Group meetings.

Minded to Grant Decision:- (1) That the in principle disposal of the Doncaster Gate site, or part of, be approved on terms to be agreed.

(2) That the disposal and terms for the disposal be delegated to the Director of Housing, Asset Management and Neighbourhood Services.

(3) That upon completion of negotiations, a report be submitted to Commissioner Kenny for a final decision on the disposal of the site.

Date of Publication of the Mind to Grant Decision:- Monday, 3rd August, 2015.

Representations upon the decision are invited from Councillors, members of the public, partner agencies and any interested body or individual within five working days from the date of publication and must be received by Hannah Etheridge Hannah.etheridge@rotherham.gov.uk no later than 5.00 p.m. on Monday, 10th August, 2015.