

Decision No: CAB –

Forward Plan No:

This record relates to Agenda Item 252 on the agenda for the Decision-Making

RECORD OF CABINET DECISION

DECISION-MAKER:	CABINET
PORTFOLIO AREA:	RESOURCES
SUBJECT:	STANMER PARK - TRADITIONAL AGRICULTURAL BUILDINGS UPDATE
AUTHOR:	JESSICA HAMILTON

THE DECISION

- (1) That it be agreed to consult with the SDNPA, tenants and other interested parties on the refreshed City Downland Initiative called the Downland Estate policy that fits into the One Planet Living principles and UN Biosphere Reserve status; and
- (2) That the progress made to date be noted and the appointment of a project team to establish the feasibility of the Home Farm buildings being refurbished as a gateway to the South Downs National Park be supported. Working in partnership with the SDNPA the project team will establish a planned and costed development strategy that fits into the developing master plan for the Park capable of being used, for applications for grant funding, such as, the Heritage Lottery Grant Fund. Funding for the project team's initial set up costs of £75,000 is to be met from existing capital budgets.

REASON FOR THE DECISION

It is the council's aspiration to refurbish the vacant and redundant traditional agricultural buildings in the heart of Stanmer village and Park to meet the objectives of the refreshed Downland Estate policy developed in partnership with the SDNPA to provide a range of services and accommodation to attract visitors to Stanmer, improve their enjoyment of the park and provide a gateway to the Downs that fits within the developing Master Plan for the Park.

Progress has been made in preparing a vision and completing consultation work. In order to progress this further, investment is needed to fund a project team with the aim of working in partnership with the SDNPA to prepare a costed development strategy and assess the financial viability of the development proposals.

DETAILS OF ANY ALTERNATIVE OPTIONS

Demolition of the buildings is not possible given the protected status granted due to their heritage value.

The retention of the buildings for farming use is no longer viable as the buildings are obsolete for this purpose.

It is not financially sustainable to retain the buildings as vacant in the medium or long term as the council will be required to fund repair and maintenance of the properties.

There may be opportunities to obtain planning permissions and let the buildings in their current state in a piecemeal fashion but this would not realise the full redevelopment potential of the buildings and the benefits that redevelopment would bring to the park and city of Brighton & Hove

There may be opportunities for refurbish of the buildings for an alternative use but would not contribute to the aims and vision set out in this report.

OTHER RELEVANT MATTERS CONCERNING THE DECISION

None

CONFLICTS OF INTEREST

CONFIRMED AS A TRUE RECORD:

We certify that the decision this document records was made in accordance with the Local Authorities (Executive Arrangements) (Access to Information) (England) Regulations 2000 and is a true and accurate record of that decision

Date:

Decision Maker:

19 April 2012

Councillor Bill Randall
Leader of the Council
Signed:



Proper Officer:

19 April 2012

Mark Wall, Head of Democratic Services
Signed:



SCRUTINY

Note: This decision will come into force at the expiry of 5 working days from the date of the meeting at which the decision was taken subject to any requirement for earlier implementation of the decision.

Or: This decision is urgent and not subject to call-in (date of CE's agreement to urgency of decision).

Call-In Period 19 – 26 April 2012

Date of Call-in

Call-in Procedure completed

Call-in heard by

Results of Call-in