

Record of Decisions

Future use of Parkfield House & Grounds for Community Development

Decision Taker

Cabinet on 19 April 2022

Decision

1. That an in-principle decision to dispose of Parkfield House by way of a leasehold disposal or community asset transfer on terms to be agreed, be approved;
2. That the Director of Place, in consultation with Parkfield House Project Board be authorised to seek Expressions of Interest from Community Partners to ascertain interest from the community in taking on the site by way of a leasehold disposal or community asset transfer. The Parkfield House Framework, attached as Appendix 1 to the submitted report, will be used to shape and inform the Expressions of Interest and the Director of Place will seek detailed business cases from those Community Partners who are shortlisted; and
3. On receipt and review of the detailed business cases from Community Partners the Director of Place, in consultation with Parkfield House Project Board, will make recommendations regarding disposal of the asset, which will be subject to final approval by Cabinet. It is anticipated that a recommendation can be made to Cabinet in November 2022 for disposal of the asset to a preferred partner(s).

Reason for the Decision

One of the principles of Torbay Council Asset Management Strategy 2022 – 2027 is to work collaboratively and promote joint working with Voluntary, Community and Faith Sector organisations to identify wider opportunities to benefit the community. A change of use of Parkfield and some of the wider grounds demonstrates the Council's commitment to using appropriate assets to form long term partnerships with suitable voluntary, community and sports organisations.

Implementation

This decision will come into force and may be implemented on, 3 May 2022 unless the call-in procedure is triggered (as set out in the Standing Orders in relation to Overview and Scrutiny).

Information

The Cabinet's approval was sought for an in-principle decision to dispose of land and buildings at Parkfield, Esplanade Road, Paignton; their being surplus to the Council's requirements and a valuable community asset which could be brought back into use for the benefit of Torbay residents.

The Council wishes to explore a future use of the site with a partner or group of partners in the non-profit sector, who will develop the site to achieve an agreed set of strategic outcomes. This disposal could be by way of a long leasehold arrangement of a minimum 25 years or by way of a Community Asset Transfer. In either case, the Council would retain ownership of the site, but management and development responsibility would be handed over to the recipient organisations; with the Council maintaining some oversight.

The submitted report set out details of the Parkfield Project Board working collaboratively with community partners to inform their expressions of interest and form business cases. It was anticipated the Board would make recommendations to the Cabinet for disposal in November 2022. The membership of the Parkfield Project Board would be discussed at its next meeting to consider including community and ward councillor representation from Paignton.

At the meeting, Councillor Long proposed a motion and Councillor Cowell seconded a motion, that was agreed unanimously by the Cabinet, as set out above.

Alternative Options considered and rejected at the time of the decision

None.

Is this a Key Decision?

No

Does the call-in procedure apply?

Yes

Declarations of interest (including details of any relevant dispensations issued by the Standards Committee)

None.

Published

22 April 2022

Signed: _____
Leader of Torbay Council on behalf of the Cabinet

Date: 22 April 2022

