

Report to: **Lead Member for Resources**

Date of meeting: **25 November 2014**

By: **Chief Operating Officer**

Title: **Land and Buildings at Etchingham: Site Acquisition**

Purpose: **To seek Lead Member approval to acquire land and buildings to combine freehold interests for sale**

RECOMMENDATIONS

The Lead Member is recommended to:

- (1) authorise the acquisition of the freehold of the land and buildings; and**
 - (2) delegate authority to the Chief Operating Officer to dispose of the site for best consideration.**
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1. Background

1.1 The property is currently used as the Etchingham Church of England Primary School, a controlled school. It is proposed that the school will move to the new Etchingham School and Community Centre site at the start of the spring term in 2015. The new school site will be transferred on completion to the Diocesan Board of Finance for the Diocese of Chichester.

1.2 On transfer of the school to the new site the Council will proceed to sell the combined interests of the Diocese and the Council in the open market in order to recoup the cost of purchase and share with the Diocese any profit achieved from the sale over and above the value of the respective interests of the Council and the Diocese.

1.3 Further exempt financial information is set out in a later agenda item.

2. Supporting Information

2.1 The site area to be purchased has an area of 0.134 hectares (0.33 acres) located to the eastern end of Etchingham village as shown on the plan at Appendix 1. The total site, including ESCC land has an area of 0.403 hectares (0.99 acres).

2.2 The Local Member, Councillor Barnes, has been closely involved with the new school project and has been notified of our recommendation.

3. Conclusion and Reason for Recommendation

3.1 The purchase provides certainty to the Diocese in achieving best value and enables the combination of the interests to create a viable holding for future sale.

3.2 The Lead Member for Resources is therefore recommended to approve the purchase of the site to enable the combination of the land holdings for future sale, and to delegate authority to the Chief Operating Officer to effect any sale for best consideration reasonably attainable. .

KEVIN FOSTER
Chief Operating Officer

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LOCAL MEMBERS
Councillor Barnes

BACKGROUND DOCUMENTS
None