

Record of Delegated Executive Decision(s)

1. Subject of decision

Disposal of land at the former Swan Hunter shipyard, Wallsend

2. Name and Title of Decision Maker

John Sparkes, Director of Regeneration & Economic Development

3. Details of any Conflict of Interest and any Dispensation granted in respect of such Interest

None

4. Executive summary

On 22 January 2024 Cabinet considered a report outlining the proposal to dispose of land at the former Swan Hunter shipyard and to also end the Joint Venture Agreement (JVA) with Homes England in relation to the former shipyard.

At its meeting on 22 January 2024 Cabinet resolved that:

(1) the progress made in delivering the development of the former Swan Hunter shipyard site, be noted;

(2) the termination of the Joint Venture Agreement dated 5 November 2013 made between the Authority and the Homes and Communities Agency, be agreed;

3) subject to resolution (2), the Director of Regeneration and Economic Development in consultation with the Elected Mayor, Deputy Mayor and Cabinet Member for Finance and Resources and the Director of Resources, be authorised to approve and authorise the share of net divisible receipts that was calculated should be paid to the Homes and Communities Agency and to make such payments;

(4) the land identified on the plan at Appendix 1 of the Cabinet report as being surplus to the requirements of the Authority and agrees to the disposal of the land on the terms set out in paragraph 1.5.3 of the Cabinet report, and;

(5) subject to resolution (4) the Director of Regeneration and Economic Development in consultation with the Director of Resources and the Head of Law be authorised to conclude the disposals and to take all necessary steps in that regard.

This report relates to resolution (5) above and seeks approval to conclude the disposals..

The decision to approve and authorise the calculation of the share of net divisible receipts to be paid to the Homes and Communities Agency (Homes England) was made on 8 March 2024. The sum of net divisible receipts was subsequently paid to Homes England enabling the JVA to be terminated by Homes England's deadline of 31 March 2024.

5. Alternative Options considered

The following decision options were available for consideration by the Director of Regeneration and Economic Development:

Option 1

To agree the recommendation that:

- (1) the Director of Regeneration and Economic Development in consultation with the Director of Resources and the Head of Law approve and authorise the conclusion of the disposal of the six land interests identified in paragraph 1.5.3

Option 2

Not to agree the recommendation set out as Option 1 above.

Option 1 was the recommended option.

6. Decision

- (1) The Director of Regeneration and Economic Development in consultation with the Director of Resources and the Head of Law approved and authorised the conclusion of the disposal of the six land interests identified in paragraph 1.5.3

7. Reasons for the Decision(s)

The decision to approve Option 1 was taken for the following reason:

The recommended option will enable the Authority to dispose of land to furthermore disposal of the mooring dolphin reduces the Authority's exposure to the ongoing risk of having to pay for its disposal.

8. Date Decision Made

25 March 2025

9. Is this decision subject to call-in and if so expiry date of call-in period

N/A

10. Date of Publication

26 March 2025

11. Implementation Date (if decision not called in)

26 March 2025

It has been agreed by the Chair of Council that this decision is not for call-in due to the need to a requirement for the land to be disposed of by 31 March 2025.