

## **BCa/21/38 ACCOMMODATION AND AGILE STRATEGY- ENDEAVOUR HOUSE**

### **Call- in to the Babergh Overview and Scrutiny Committee 21 February 2022**

The following Councillors agree that the cabinet decision taken on Monday 7 February 2022 should be called-in for scrutiny, for the following reasons:

I believe the paper that was presented to Cabinet on Monday, BCa/21/38 did not contain sufficient information on the capital costs of the works proposed for cabinet to make an informed decision.

6.7 of the report states:

*The total costs per Council would be £250,000 and the total net saving per Council would be £338,00.*

The later calculation has been explained, the former is referred to in the following point (6.8 in the report).

*The Capital costs are estimated and will be refined during the Technical Design Stage of the project.*

This is the only reference made in the paper with no breakdown on how £250,000 will be spent. This is compounded by the fact that this is just a share of the overall costs as its split across both councils.

At the Cabinet on 7 Feb which I attended and watched on You Tube I noted that no Cabinet Member asked questions on costs or debated these elements of the issue.

My contention is that the cabinet approved the paper on a reduction to the floor plate but neglected to consider the expenditure. There should be an opportunity to examine, debate and vote on the capital costs once these details are available. This is a key decision as proposed expenditure is over £150,000. To fully comply with our constitution councillors must fully consider all the circumstances (see extract below from the notice displayed on forthcoming decisions list) – this has not happened.

A key decision (as per Part 1, 12.9.1 in the Constitution) is an Executive decision which is likely to:

1. Result in the Council spending, or saving a significant amount compared with the Budget for the service or function the decision relates to
2. Have a “significant” effect on communities living or working in an area made up of two or more wards

When assessing whether or not a decision is a key decision Councillors must consider all the circumstances of the case. However, a decision which results in a significant amount spent or saved will generally be considered to be a key decision if:

1. The amount spent is £150,000 or more of revenue or capital expenditure

Expenditure on this scale must not be delegated.

**Councillor Melanie Barrett  
Councillor Trevor Cresswell  
Councillor Jane Gould**

**Councillor Margaret Maybury  
Councillor Mark Newman  
Councillor Mick Fraser**