

LAND AT HARRISON WAY, ST IVES

(Report by the Head of Legal and Estates)

1. PURPOSE

To seek approval to negotiate the sale of land required for the Guided Busway scheme.

2. BACKGROUND

2.1 The Guided Busway project was finally approved in July 2006 and work started at Longstanton in November 2006. The first section will be between Longstanton and Cambridge followed by an extension southwards to Trumpington. The section from Longstanton to St Ives will be built last with completion scheduled for early 2009.

2.2 The route to St Ives will broadly follow the line of the former St Ives railway. The scheme requires three parcels of land in the ownership of the District Council as shown on the plan appended. The first two parcels are small areas of highway verge. The largest section, marked 3 on the plan, comprises the site of the former station which was acquired by the District Council in 1985 from British Rail Property Board. The area of site 3 is approximately 2.3 acres and the land has remained unused since then.

2.3 The Cambridge Guided Busway Order 2005 gave compulsory purchase powers for the scheme.

3. CURRENT POSITION

3.1 Agents for the County Council are proceeding under the Compulsory Purchase Powers. This will enable the land to be made available for the scheme even if terms have not been agreed and the land legally transferred. In the meantime negotiations will need to commence for the disposal of the land.

3.2 The value of the three parcels will depend on acceptable alternative uses where appropriate and the cost of any associated infrastructure and access.

4. CONCLUSION

The Guided Busway Scheme has started and therefore negotiations will now commence for the sale of the land required.

5. RECOMMENDATIONS

5.1 Cabinet is accordingly recommended to:-

- (i) note the current position regarding the Guided Busway project;
- (ii) approve the commencement of negotiations for the sale of the land required; and
- (iii) authorise the Director of Central Services to approve terms after consultation with the Executive Councillors for Resources and Policy and for Finance.

BACKGROUND INFORMATION

Guided Busway updates

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