

EAST HERTS COUNCIL

EXECUTIVE – 2 FEBRUARY 2016

REPORT BY EXECUTIVE MEMBER FOR FINANCE AND SUPPORT SERVICES

TRANSFER OF FREEHOLD INTEREST OF WASTE DISPOSAL SITE, WATERMILL INDUSTRIAL ESTATE, ASPENDEN ROAD, BUNTINGFORD

WARD(S) AFFECTED: BUNTINGFORD

Purpose/Summary of Report

- To seek formal approval to transfer the title deeds for the freehold interest of the Household Waste Site, Aspenden Road, Watermill Industrial Estate, Buntingford to Hertfordshire County Council.

RECOMMENDATION FOR DECISION: that

(A)	the title for the freehold interest in the Household Waste Site at Watermill Industrial Estate be transferred to Hertfordshire County Council on the terms detailed in the report now submitted.
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1.0 Background

1.1 Watermill Industrial Estate is situated on the south west side of Buntingford with access from Aspenden Road. The original purchasers of the land were the Guardians of the poor of the Buntingford Union Rural Sanitary Authority in the 19th Century. The land was used for sewage disposal and the construction of a sewage works. Thames Water became successors in title for the land used for sewage disposal while the former Braughing Rural District Council and then ultimately East Herts Council inherited the remaining land.

1.2 The Council owned various plots of land on the Estate most of which have been sold over the years. The Council has a small

ownership remaining and this includes title to part of the land that forms the household waste site which is managed and operated by the County Council. As the authority with responsibility for waste disposal the County Council have user rights to the land and as such have occupied the land for this use since 1974.

2.0 Report

2.1 The District Council holds the title deeds to part of the site because it was part of a larger area of land separate to the waste site. This land has now been disposed of so it is no longer appropriate for the Council to retain this title.

2.2 The County Council has established user rights as the waste disposal authority and there is therefore no lease arrangement in place and no rent paid to this Council.

2.3 This Council is prohibited from making alternative use of the land for any other purpose than a waste site under the General Statutory provision section 180 of the Local Government Act 1972.

2.4 It is recommended that East Herts Council transfers the title for the freehold interest in the land to Hertfordshire County Council with each party bearing its own costs.

3.0 Implications/Consultations

3.1 None

Background Papers

None

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