

**NOTES OF A VIRTUAL MEETING OF  
THE ECONOMIC REGENERATION  
& INVESTMENT BOARD**

**23<sup>rd</sup> June 2020**

**Attending:** Cllr. Clarkson (Chairman)  
Cllr. Bartlett  
Cllr. Clokie  
Cllr. Ovenden  
Cllr. Shorter

**Also Present:** Chief Executive  
Director of Finance & Economy  
Communications & Marketing Manager  
Head of Corporate Property & Projects  
Estates & Facilities Manager  
Head of Finance & IT  
Head of Housing  
Chartered Legal Executive  
Member Services & Ombudsman Liaison Officer

Apologies:

	<b>ACTION</b>
<p><b>1. <u>Notes of the Previous Meeting</u></b></p> <p>The Notes of the Meeting of the Economic Regeneration and Investment Board held on 29<sup>th</sup> January 2020 were agreed and confirmed as a correct record.</p>	
<p><b>2. <u>Rent Concessions for the Tenanted Estates</u></b></p> <p>The Estates &amp; Facilities Manager introduced this item and drew Members' attention to the key points within his report. A Member thanked him and congratulated him on a well-crafted report.</p> <p>A Member asked about the drop in rental income between June and the following months. The Estates &amp; Facilities Manager explained that the true costs would only become apparent once negotiations had taken place with tenants across the board, but the figures set out a worst case scenario snapshot across the tenanted portfolio.</p> <p>A Member said he considered some elements of the scoring table were slightly skewed and that this needed reviewing and refining. The Estates &amp; Facilities Manager explained that each property and business were individual. The current proposal provided an objective means of applying a similar scoring approach to all. He confirmed that Officers</p>	<b>DK/PM</b>

would be investigating more deeply into the financial position of any businesses who were identified as possible recipients of assistance. The Director of Finance & Economy added that the Investigations Team would be on hand to assist with this work, if necessary.

A Member noted that there were several businesses operating in International House, and asked that this figure was broken down further into individual businesses. The Estates & Facilities Manager explained that the schedule provided with the report supplied figures for the International House rentals broken down by individual occupier.

Members accepted that there would be a new level of rental normality following lockdown which would be likely to affect market rent levels in future.

Members expressed a desire to support local businesses financially through the strains of the current COVID-19 situation. However, they questioned how long this support could be extended by the Council and considered that a realistic approach must be taken and assistance must be time-limited. Members agreed that the Council should not provide financial assistance to businesses which were not able to prove their viability prior to the lockdown period, or those that were likely to fail. They also asked Officers to be diligent in drilling down to identify genuine need and to exercise caution in applying concessions.

Subject to the above discussion, the Board agreed the Recommendations contained in the report.

It was agreed that Officers would in due course report back with recommendations on a case by case basis.