



**LETTER FROM:** The Chair and Vice Chair of Policy and Corporate Resources Overview and Scrutiny Committee

**LETTER TO:** The Executive Members for Resources and Regeneration. Agreement to application of Special Urgency procedure 15.1 Access to Information Procedure Rules in Part 4 of the Constitution.

**ON:** 13<sup>th</sup> March 2013

**RE:** Blackburn Market Demolition Tender Executive Board Agenda Item 8.4 14<sup>th</sup> March 2013

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Dear Councillors Kay and Virmani,

We are writing to you about the above item which is to be considered at tomorrow's meeting of the Executive Board.

The recommendations are:

1. That delegated authority to accept the most advantageous tender up to the value of £1.1m is conferred on the Strategic Director for Resources and Transformation in consultation with the Executive Members for Resources and Regeneration.
2. That subject to the approval of the Chair of Overview and Scrutiny this matter shall not be subject to call-in as the making of the decision is urgent and cannot be delayed.

We have been briefed on the following points:

That vacating of the old markets and the perimeter shops has been on-going for the last three years, with the final shop being vacated in December 2012, and that following this comprehensive 2 stage procurement process was then undertaken to seek tenders for the demolition of the old markets premises, with the tender return date was 6<sup>th</sup> March. Eight tenders have been received, and the evaluation of those tenders is currently being undertaken.

In the meanwhile those undertaking the Cathedral Quarter development have asked that the existing bus station on the Boulevard be moved as soon as possible to

enable that development to progress: As a result a temporary bus station has to be built and be open by the beginning of August on the northern part of the markets site. This means that the demolition of the markets has now become an urgent matter. We are aware that the successful demolition contractor has to be appointed within days if the Council is to meet the very tight timetable that has been set, and the following timetable demonstrating the close inter-dependency of these projects has been explained to us:

- 21<sup>st</sup> March – 10<sup>th</sup> April - demolition contract lead-in period
- 10<sup>th</sup> April demolition starts on site
- 10<sup>th</sup> April – 5<sup>th</sup> June (8 weeks) demolition and handover of first phase/ northern part of markets site
- 5<sup>th</sup> June – 5<sup>th</sup> August construction of interim bus station on northern part of markets site
- 5<sup>th</sup> June – 7<sup>th</sup> August (9 weeks) demolition and handover of second phase/ southern part of markets site
- 5<sup>th</sup> August – enabling works commence Boulevard/ Cathedral Quarter
- 12<sup>th</sup> August – road closures and service diversions commence Boulevard/ Cathedral Quarter
- 7<sup>th</sup> August – the construction of a new bus station start on site, duration 12-15 months

In view of the urgent timescales, the vice chair and I have considered and approved the request that the matter should not be subject to Call-In as the making of the decision is urgent and cannot be delayed.

**Cllr Jim Shorrock**  
**Chair**

**Cllr Brian Taylor**  
**Vice Chair**

**Policy and Corporate Resources**  
**Overview and Scrutiny Committee**