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Resources Overview & Scrutiny Panel - 22 May 2024

EXEMPT MATTERS

The following items are exempt under Part 1 of Schedule 12A of the Local Government Act 1972 by virtue of the paragraphs indicated

- 10 **Exempt Questions to Portfolio Holders**
(Paragraph 3 - Information relating to the financial or business affairs of any particular person (including the authority holding that information))

Question received from Councillor Aberley:

Q1. Which commercial properties owned by the Council are currently empty across the Moorlands, and what efforts are being made to attract tenants?

Response from Councillor Atkins Portfolio Holder for Services:-

The Council has very few vacant properties in SMDC.

Town Yard

Unit 4 – Vacant due to us taking peaceable re-entry for non-payment of rent. We have given the former occupier a month to come and remove his chattels and as such we will not instruct a company to clear out the Unit so that it can be prepared for marketing. The costs of the clearance will be levied back on to the account. We have managed to trace the individual and our debt collectors will now get to work.

Unit 12 & 7 – Vacant but both with legals as new leases have been agreed.

1 Market Place

This is vacant but we have one interested party at the moment. We are taking some proactive steps to improve its appearance (painting, window cleaning etc.) and it is currently being used by the Town Council as advertising space in the windows.

In terms of attracting potential tenants, we have a commercial letting agent acting on our behalf.

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By way of supplementary questions, Councillor Aberley enquired about the Council taking a creative approach to letting of empty premises. The Officer and Portfolio Holder agreed that this was the case and it was important for the Council to bring properties back into economic use. The Head of Assets had reviewed commercial leases and there would be a consistent approach to lettings in the future.

- 11 **Exempt Minutes of the previous meeting**
(Paragraph 3 - Information relating to the financial or business affairs of any particular person (including the authority holding that information))

RESOLVED: That the exempt minutes from the meeting held on 22 May 2024, be approved as a correct record.

The meeting closed at 11.30 am

_____Chairman_____Date