

## EPPING FOREST DISTRICT COUNCIL

Notification of Call-In of Portfolio Holder Decision under Paragraphs 45-52 of Article 6 (Overview & Scrutiny) of the Constitution This form must be signed and completed and the original returned to the Proper Officer in person no later than the fifth working day following the publication of the decision to be called-in.

Decision to be called-in: *Epping Forest College granted a variation to covenants*

Decision reference: C-017-2020/21 no.8

Portfolio: Commercial & Regulatory services

Description of decision: "RELEASE OF RESTRICTIVE COVENANTS - EPPING FOREST COLLEGE Decision: Epping Forest College be granted a variation to the covenants on the land further to previous removal of restrictive covenants"

### Reasons for call-in:

1. The decision announced at the start of cabinet by the Leader to restrict members to one question each unreasonably and improperly hampered scrutiny;
2. The non-attendance of the responsible Officer, and seeming inability of the PFH and other officers to answer detailed questions hampered scrutiny;
3. We believe there is no longer an entity called "Epping Forest College". Its assets and liabilities have (we understand) been acquired by New City College;
4. The plans and documents attached to the cabinet report are confusing, in part illegible, and inconsistent;
5. The proposed new covenants are unstated other than in general terms and do not assure public use of the land and facilities proposed to be covered by the reconveyance of land proposed for a "wellness centre" ["the centre"] by New City College;
6. Without the full text of the proposed new covenant, no provision is made for community control of any subsequent disposal of the land in the event of non-construction or failure of the proposed centre. There needs

to be an explicit provision that this will be completed to agreed specifications and with explicit provisions for public access and the level of fees for that access before the release is granted. The land proposed to form the centre and its surrounding open space and the principle of public access needs to be defined before release of the covenant;

7. The paper makes no mention of the sum to be paid by any party to EFDC in consideration of the council's agreeing to new covenants, despite the huge uplift in land values profiting the college;
8. There is no evidence in the Report that Essex County Council currently do not require land in Loughton for a new school site. Their statement five years ago does not necessarily hold good after the scale of new construction of dwellings envisaged in LPSV 2017. A signed statement by the ECC Chief Executive is needed

Members requesting call-in (3 members of the Overview and Scrutiny Committee or 5 other members)

Members Name:

C C POND

S W MURRAY

H B KAUFFMAN

D ROBERTS

Lead member: C C POND

Office Use Only:

**Date Received:** 23 September at 16.00 – also to note that Cllr C Roberts has also given his name to this call in but had been omitted from the above list of names – therefore they do have the required 5 members for a call-in. A. Hendry