

**OVERVIEW SCRUTINY GROUP
11TH DECEMBER 2017**

PRESENT: The Chair (Councillor Taylor)
The Vice-chair (Councillor Bebbington)
Councillors Bradshaw, Capleton, Jones and Sutherland

Chief Executive
Strategic Director of Housing, Planning, Regeneration and
Regulatory Services
Head of Cleansing and Open Spaces
Head of Finance and Property Services
Head of Landlord Services
Procurement Manager
Group Leader Plans, Policies and Place (DP)
Democratic Services Officer (NA)

Councillor Harper-Davies attended the meeting in relation to item 10 as the Cabinet Lead Member for Performance of Major Contracts.

APOLOGIES: Councillor Gerrard

The Chair stated that the meeting would be recorded and the sound recording subsequently made available via the Council's website. She also advised that, under the Openness of Local Government Bodies Regulations 2014, other people may film, record, tweet or blog from this meeting, and the use of any such images or sound recordings was not under the Council's control.

51. MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING

The minutes of the meeting of the Group held on 13th November 2017 were confirmed as a correct record and signed.

52. DISCLOSURES OF PECUNIARY AND PERSONAL INTERESTS

The following disclosures were made:

Councillor Taylor disclosed a personal interest in item 6B as a member of Leicestershire County Council.

53. DECLARATIONS OF THE PARTY WHIP

No declarations were made.

54. QUESTIONS UNDER SCRUTINY COMMITTEE PROCEDURES 11.16

No questions had been submitted.

55. CAPITAL PLAN AMENDMENT REPORT

A report of the Head of Finance and Property Services was considered to approve changes for the 2017/18 – 2018/19 Capital Plan and its financing, (item 6A on the agenda filed with these minutes).

The Head of Finance and Property Services and the Head of Cleansing and Open Spaces attended the meeting to assist with consideration of the item and gave the following responses to issues raised:

- (i) The Digital Democracy project was expected to breakeven and produce savings in terms of efficiency such as officers' time spent printing. The committee management system was also explained in more detail to the group.
- (ii) The new Call Secure System would provide the technology to meet the security regulations required as well as provide an update for the organisation.
- (iii) The Choice Based Lettings Software budget was to secure a new system that would provide a better service for applicants in terms of accessibility and help staff with the allocations process. The group was also advised that assisted bidding was available to help vulnerable applicants who had difficulty using the system.
- (iv) The Nanpantan Tennis Court refurbishment budget was agreed with no further comments.
- (v) The Green Spaces Programme budget was agreed and the slippage identified due to the project being postponed.

RESOLVED that the Cabinet be informed that the Group supports the recommendations as set out in the report of the Head of Finance and Property Services.

Reason

Having considered the report and asked questions of the Head of Finance and Property Services on the matter, the Group concluded that it would be appropriate for the Cabinet to approve the recommendations set out in the report.

56. AGENDA VARIANCE

At the agreement of the Chair the following agenda item was moved forward: Award of Housing Capital Programme (Decent Homes) Contract.

57. EXEMPT INFORMATION

RESOLVED that members of the public be excluded from the meeting during the consideration of the following item on the grounds that it would involve the likely disclosure of exempt information as defined in Paragraph 3 of Part 1 of Schedule 12A to the Local Government Act 1972 and it is considered that the public

interest in maintaining the exemption outweighs the public interest in disclosing the information.

58. AWARD OF HOUSING CAPITAL PROGRAMME (DECENT HOMES CONTRACT)

An exempt report of the Head of Landlord Services was considered regarding the procurement process for appointing the contractor to deliver the Housing Capital Programme (item 10 on the agenda filed with these minutes).

The Strategic Director for Housing, Planning, Regeneration and Regulatory Services and the Head of Landlord Services attended the meeting to assist with consideration of the item.

A summary of the Group's discussion on this matter is provided in the exempt minute (Overview Scrutiny Group Minute 58E 2017/18).

RESOLVED that the Cabinet be informed that the Group supports the recommendation as set out in the report of the Head of Landlord Services.

Reason

Having considered the report and asked questions of the Head of Landlord Services on the matter, the Group concluded that it would be appropriate for the Cabinet to approve the recommendation set out in the report.

59. PUBLIC READMITTED

RESOLVED that members of the public be re-admitted to the meeting as the rest of the items were not exempt.

60. LEICESTER AND LEICESTERSHIRE STRATEGIC GROWTH PLAN

A report of the Strategic Director for Housing, Planning, Regeneration and Regulatory Services was considered advising of the work undertaken so far in the development of a Strategic Growth Plan for Leicester and Leicestershire (item 6B on the agenda filed with these minutes).

The Strategic Director for Housing, Planning, Regeneration and Regulatory Services and Group Leader for Plans, Policies and Place Making attended the meeting to assist with consideration of the item and gave the following responses to issues raised:

- (i) The consultation process was detailed for the Group including the timescales for the consultation and the materials that would be used.
- (ii) Charnwood was perceived to be in a strong position due to already having a local plan in place. The idea was that the different councils would come together to align their local plans to fit with the timescale.

- (iii) The strategic plan was explained as being the overarching plan with the local plans and neighbourhood plans sitting below where they could shape the local area using the strategic plan as a guide regarding infrastructure.
- (iv) The projections for future housing in the area were discussed as there was concern that an emerging methodology published by the government would result in different higher housing targets for Charnwood. The group was advised that the emerging methodology had not been finalised but that the amount of housing was not dissimilar to that set out in the strategic growth plan.

RESOLVED that the Cabinet be informed that the Group supports the recommendation as set out in the report of the Strategic Director of Housing, Planning, Regeneration and Regulatory Services.

Reason

Having considered the report and asked questions of the Strategic Director for Housing, Planning, Regeneration and Regulatory Services and Group Leader for Plans, Policies and Place Making on the matter, the Group concluded that it would be appropriate for the Cabinet to approve the recommendation set out in the report.

61. OVERVIEW SCRUTINY GROUP PRE-DECISION SCRUTINY – CABINET RESPONSE

A report of the Cabinet was considered setting out its responses to the recommendations of the Group on pre-decision scrutiny items (item 7 on the agenda filed with these minutes).

Councillor Bradshaw commented that she was late attending the last meeting and the Group had discussed one of the items before she had chance to give her views.

RESOLVED that the Cabinet's responses to the Group's recommendations be noted.

Reason

The Group was satisfied that it added value where appropriate and welcomed the Cabinet's consideration of the Group's views and recommendations as part of its decision making process.

62. WORK PROGRAMME

A report of the Head of Strategic Support was considered, to enable the Group to consider its work programme and forthcoming Key Decisions and decisions to be taken in private by the Cabinet in order to schedule items for pre-decision scrutiny and to provide an opportunity for members of the Group to raise suggestions on issues for scrutiny (in addition to pre-decision scrutiny) which fell

within the Group's remit, for scheduling by Scrutiny Management Board (item 8 on the agenda filed with these minutes).

The Group considered the report (and further information on the forthcoming Key Decisions and decisions to be taken in private by the Cabinet provided by the Chief Executive at this meeting) and agreed to schedule items for pre-decision scrutiny prior to the next Cabinet meeting, but that the following pre-decision scrutiny items should be added to its work programme at this stage:

- Charnwood Grants – Strategic Partners (18th January 2018)
- Treasury Management Strategy Statement (15th February 2018)

RESOLVED that the Group's current work programme be noted and updated following this meeting, in accordance with the decisions taken during consideration of this item and at this meeting and any items of pre-decision scrutiny that require changing due to their reprogramming by the Cabinet.

Reason

To ensure effective and timely scrutiny, either to provide Cabinet with advice prior to it taking a decision or to ensure that the Council and external public service providers and partners were operating effectively for the benefit of the Borough.

NOTES:

1. No reference may be made to these minutes at the Council meeting on 22nd January 2018 unless notice to that effect is given to the Democratic Services Manager by five members of the Council by noon on the fifth working day following publication of the minutes.
2. These minutes are subject to confirmation as a correct record at the next meeting of the Group.