OVERVIEW SCRUTINY GROUP – 15TH JANUARY 2018

Report of the Cabinet

ITEM 07 OVERVIEW SCRUTINY GROUP PRE-DECISION SCRUTINY - CABINET RESPONSE

Purpose of Report

To set out the Cabinet's responses to the recommendations of the Group on pre-decision scrutiny items.

Action Requested

To note the Cabinet's responses to the recommendations submitted by the Group on items considered for pre-decision scrutiny.

Policy Context

One of the principles of effective scrutiny, identified by the Centre for Public Scrutiny, is "provide a constructive critical friend challenge to the Executive".

Pre-decision Scrutiny

Since the September meeting of the Group, the Cabinet has considered the following items on which the Group undertook pre-decision scrutiny:

A. CAPITAL PLAN AMENDMENT REPORT

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

C. LEICESTER AND LEICESTERSHIRE STRATEGIC GROWTH PLAN

Details of the Group's consideration of the items as reported to the Cabinet on 14th December 2017 are set out in the appendix to this report.

The Chair of the Group, Councillor Taylor, attended the Cabinet's meeting on 14th December 2017 to present the Group's reports to the Cabinet.

Cabinet Response

The Cabinet considered the Group's reports and acknowledged the work undertaken and the views of the Group. In particular, the Cabinet responded as follows to the reports:

Capital Plan Amendment Report

The Cabinet adopted the officer recommendations, which the Group had supported.

Award of Housing Capital Programme (Decent Homes) Contract

The Cabinet adopted the officer recommendations, which the Group had supported.

Leicester and Leicestershire Strategic Growth Plan

The Cabinet adopted the officer recommendations, which the Group had supported

Report Implications

The following implications have been identified for this report:

Financial Implications

None.

Risk Management

No risks have been identified in connection with this report.

Background Papers: None

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APPENDIX

CAPITAL PLAN AMENDMENT REPORT

Recommendation of the Overview Scrutiny Group

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 to approve the recommendations as set out in the report.

Meeting Discussion

Following questions from the Group, the Head of Finance and Property Services and the Head of Cleansing and Open Spaces provided the following responses:

(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.

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AWARD OF HOUSING CAPITAL PROGRAMME (DECENT HOMES) CONTRACT

Recommendation of the Overview Scrutiny Group

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

Reason

Having considered the report and asked questions of the Strategic Director for Housing, Planning, Regeneration and Regulatory Services and the Head of Landlord Services on the matter, the Group concluded that it would be appropriate to approve the recommendations as set out in the report.

Meeting Discussion

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

LEICESTER AND LEICESTERSHIRE STRATEGIC GROWTH PLAN

Recommendation of the Overview Scrutiny Group

That the Cabinet be informed that the Group supports the recommendations as set out in the report of the Strategic Director for 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 the Group Leader for Plans, Policies and Place Making on the matter, the Group concluded that it would be appropriate to approve the recommendations as set out in the report.

Meeting Discussion

Following questions from the Group, the Strategic Director for Housing, Planning, Regeneration and Regulatory Services and the Group Leader for Plans, Policies and Place Making provided the following responses:

(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.