

**OVERVIEW SCRUTINY GROUP
3RD JULY 2017**

PRESENT: The Chair (Councillor Smidowicz)
The Vice-chair (Councillor Bebbington)
Councillors Capleton, Gerrard, Harris and Sutherland

Chief Executive
Strategic Director of Corporate Services
Head of Finance and Property Services
Interim Democratic Services Manager (KW)
Democratic Services Officer (NA)

APOLOGIES: Councillors Bradshaw and Parsons

9. MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING

The minutes of the meeting of the Group held on 12th June 2017 were confirmed as a correct record and signed.

10. DISCLOSURES OF PECUNIARY AND PERSONAL INTERESTS

No disclosures were made.

11. DECLARATIONS OF THE PARTY WHIP

No declarations were made.

12. QUESTIONS UNDER SCRUTINY COMMITTEE PROCEDURES 11.16

No questions had been submitted.

13. CAPITAL PLAN AMENDMENT REPORT

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

The Strategic Director of Corporate Services assisted with consideration of the item and gave the following responses to the issues raised:

- (i) in relation to recommendation 2 Councillor Smidowicz advised she would be speaking to the relevant officer about the proposed decrease in funding as she was concerned as a ward councillor for the area.
- (ii) members were concerned about the sequencing of recommendation 3 regarding Fearon Hall as the proposed tri partite agreement was to be discussed later in the meeting and had not yet been agreed by Cabinet.

The Group was advised that Cabinet would be considering the tri-partite agreement for Fearon Hall as well as the recommendation made for funding in the Capital Plan at the same meeting.

- (iii) there was a query over the extent of the refurbishment to the Park Road Bowling Green refurbishment and whether it would cover the car park area which was clarified for the Group.

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 Strategic Director of Corporate Services on the matter, the Group concluded that it would be appropriate for Cabinet to approve the recommendations set out in the report..

14. ANNUAL PROCUREMENT PLAN 2017/18

A report of the Head of Finance and Property Services which sets out additions to the Annual Procurement Plan for Charnwood Borough Council for 2017/18 was considered (item 6B on the agenda filed with these minutes).

The Strategic Director of Corporate Services assisted with the consideration of the item and gave the following responses to the issues raised:

- (ii) there was clarification for the Group on the terms and process for tendering projects.

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 Strategic Director of Corporate Services on the matter, the Group concluded that it would be appropriate for Cabinet to approve the recommendations as set out in the report.

15. FEARON HALL – PROPOSED TRIPARTITE LEASE AGREEMENT

A report of the Strategic Director of Corporate Services which recommends that the Council enter into a tripartite agreement with the Parochial Church Council and the Fearon Hall Community Association was considered by the Group (item 6C on the agenda filed with these minutes).

The Strategic Director of Corporate Services assisted with the consideration of the item and gave the following responses to the issues raised:

- (i) the process for the refurbishment of the building was discussed as there was a query over the sequencing of the building works to be undertaken. Advice on the order in which works were to be completed had been received from the surveyor consulted by the Council who was familiar with the specific issues of the site.
- (ii) clarification was provided on how the agreement would work going forward: the Council would pay for the works to be completed and then its financial responsibility regarding the property and the lease would end. The report envisages that the Council would continue to act as a strategic partner with the Fearon Hall Community Association. The aim was to give the Community Association maximum opportunity of becoming a stable and successful organisation, assisted by the Council in its ongoing role as a Strategic Partner to the Association.
- (iii) the Group was informed that no funds had been set aside for internal decoration although the Community Association had been given the responsibility for the interior of the building.
- (iv) the Group was grateful for the information provided in the report which provided welcome clarity for members.
- (v) there was a query over the condition of the ground (the Earth shifting) and why this had happened. It was noted that this had occurred over a number of years, probably due to changes in the composition of the clay on which the Hall was built. Several members expressed their knowledge of the site and felt that earth movement would continue. However, there was confidence that the building would remain stable.
- (vi) the insurance responsibilities would lie with partners to the lease agreement in accordance with the lease terms and conditions.

RESOLVED

1. that the Cabinet be informed that the Group supports the recommendations as set out in the report of the Strategic Director of Corporate Services.
2. that any unused contingency funds contribute towards the internal decoration of the building.

Reason

1. Having considered the report and asked questions of the Strategic Director of Corporate Services on the matter, the Group concluded that it would be appropriate to approve the recommendations as set out in the report.
2. to assist in the objective of creating a sustainable Community Association.

16. 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).

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.

17. 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 item to scrutinise DASH (Decent and Safe Homes) had been agreed to Scrutiny Management Board and scheduled for the Group's 31st July meeting where a representative from the organisation would be providing an update and answering the Group's questions.

The Community Shop item was deferred until the officers had an update for the Group.

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.

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 4th September 2017 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.

