

SCRUTINY COMMISSION – 7TH MARCH 2023

Report of the Cabinet

SCRUTINY COMMISSION PRE-DECISION SCRUTINY – CABINET RESPONSE

Purpose of Report

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

Action Requested

To note the responses to the recommendations submitted by the Commission on items considered for pre-decision scrutiny.

Policy Context

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

Pre-decision Scrutiny

Since the meeting of the Commission on 6th February 2023, the Cabinet considered the following items on which the Commission undertook pre-decision scrutiny:

- A. UK SHARED PROSPERITY FUND 'FUTURE CHARNWOOD INVESTMENT PLAN' PROGRAMME OF DELIVERY'
- B. REVIEW OF SHELTERED HOUSING ACCOMMODATION – ST MICHAEL'S COURT, THURMASTON

Details of the Commission's consideration of the items as reported to the meeting of the Cabinet on the 9th February 2023 can be found in the minutes from the Commission's meeting on 6th February 2023.

The Vice-Chair of the Commission, Councillor Ranson attended the Cabinet's meeting on the 9th February 2023 to present the Commission's reports to the Cabinet.

Cabinet Response

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

UK SHARED PROSPERITY FUND 'FUTURE CHARNWOOD INVESTMENT PLAN' PROGRAMME OF DELIVERY'

The Cabinet adopted the officer recommendations as set out in the report, which the Commission had supported.

REVIEW OF SHELTERED HOUSING ACCOMMODATION – ST MICHAEL’S COURT, THURMASTON

The Cabinet noted that on this occasion the Scrutiny Commission had not supported the recommendations set out in the report of the Director Housing and Wellbeing.

The Cabinet discussed the issues raised by the Scrutiny Commission and its views on the matter. To assist this and the Cabinet’s decision, the Cabinet Lead Member for Public Housing had asked the Director Housing and Wellbeing to provide further information on the work that had been undertaken to date in considering options for the site, including whether a replacement sheltered scheme could be viable, the constraints and planning considerations for the site and a comparison of the two sheltered accommodation scheme options that had been considered and the bungalow Option A Version 2 being recommended in the report (net present value per unit, management and maintenance, parking and accessibility, demand and the position with Right to Buy). In respect of the recommended bungalow option, the Cabinet considered that it was better financially, would be less complex to maintain/manage, provided more parking per property, was likely to be acceptable re: planning permission, met housing need, provided accommodation that existing residents could move back in to and was likely to be exempt from Right to Buy.

Following careful consideration of the report and additional information on the matter, the Cabinet adopted the officer recommendations as set out in the report, which the Commission had not 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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