

CABINET – 14TH MARCH 2019

Report of the Overview Scrutiny Group

ITEM 15 BUDGET VIREMENTS FOR PLANNING AND REGENERATION SERVICE

Purpose of Report

To consider the comments and recommendations of the Overview Scrutiny Group in relation to the approval for the virement of budget in cost centres in the Planning and Regeneration Service, in order to meet expenditure on agency workers this financial year.

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 Planning and Regeneration.

Reason

Having considered the report and asked questions of the Lead Member for Planning, Inward Investment and Tourism Strategy and the Head of Planning and Regeneration on the matter, the Group concluded that it would be appropriate for the Cabinet to approve the recommendations set out in the report.

Meeting Discussion

Following questions from the Group, the Lead Member for Planning, Inward Investment and Tourism Strategy and the Head of Planning and Regeneration provided the following responses:

- (i) The Group was advised that there had been difficulties for several years trying to recruit officers to the team, especially for the senior roles. This was due to a known national shortage of professional planners and it was recognised that the Council competes in the labour market in accordance with its organisational and employment policies.
- (ii) Agency workers were being used selectively to fill long term vacancies as well as cover vacancies arising from internal movement between posts. The Group was informed that there were currently 8 vacant posts of which 4 were being covered by agency workers.

Policy Justification and Previous Decisions

Scrutiny Committee Procedure 11.12 sets out the procedure by which a report of a scrutiny committee should be considered by the Cabinet.

Implementation Timetable including Future Decisions and Scrutiny

The information on this in the Cabinet report is not affected by the recommendation of the Overview Scrutiny Group.

Report Implications

The following implications have been identified for this report.

Financial Implications

There are no further financial implications associated with the recommendation of the Overview Scrutiny Group.

Risk Management

There are no specific risks associated with the recommendation of the Overview Scrutiny Group.

Key Decision: No

Background Paper: Overview Scrutiny Group Minute 64 2018/19,
11th March 2019

Officer to contact: Nadia Ansari, Democratic Services Officer,
(01509) 634502, nadia.ansari@charnwood.gov.uk