

## OVERVIEW SCRUTINY GROUP – 8TH APRIL 2019

### Report of the Cabinet

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

##### A. BUDGET VIREMENTS FOR PLANNING AND REGENERATION SERVICE

##### B. LOCAL DEVELOPMENT SCHEME

##### C. CHILDREN AND YOUNG PEOPLE'S STRATEGY 2019 - 2024

Details of the Group's consideration of the items as reported to the Cabinet on the 14th March 2019 are set out in the appendix to this report.

The Chair of the Group, Councillor Capleton, attended the Cabinet's meeting on the 14th March 2019 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:

##### *Budget Virements for Planning and Regeneration Service*

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

##### *Local Development Scheme*

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

##### *Children and Young People's Strategy 2019 – 2024*

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

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

**BUDGET VIREMENTS FOR PLANNING AND REGENERATION SERVICE**

**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**

The Lead Member for Planning, Inward Investment and Tourism Strategy attended the meeting to assist with consideration of the item and gave the following responses to issues raised:

- (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.

## LOCAL DEVELOPMENT SCHEME

### Recommendations 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 Service.

### 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

The Lead Member for Finance and Property Services and the Strategic Director for Corporate Services attended the meeting to assist with consideration of the item and gave the following responses to issues raised:

- (i) The Group was advised that the timeframe detailed in the report was achievable although the department had no control on variables such as further government regulation being issued or stakeholder input.
- (ii) Planned developments identified in the core strategy could be expected to deliver the infrastructure identified as they had been tested as part of the examination of that plan. Unplanned developments must be assessed to understand their impacts and those impacts then mitigated in accordance with the Community Infrastructure Levy Regulations. Where required infrastructure is not proposed it is a matter for the Plans Committee to consider the evidence and the harm caused and whether permission should be approved or refused. The Plans Committee had approved a number of applications in the last few years where required affordable housing was not included as part of the planning permission as evidence, independently tested by the District Valuer, suggested that the proposals would not be viable if it was included.

## CHILDREN AND YOUNG PEOPLE'S STRATEGY 2019 – 2024

### Recommendations 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 Neighbourhood Services.

### Reason

Having considered the report and asked questions of the Lead Member for Communities, Safety and Wellbeing and the Head of Neighbourhood Services 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

The Lead Member for Communities, Safety and Wellbeing and the Head of Neighbourhood Services attended the meeting to assist with consideration of the item and gave the following responses to issues raised:

- (i) The Group was advised that the draft strategy had already been considered by the Policy Scrutiny Group and the officers had taken on board their comments. The Strategy was now shorter and more user friendly.
- (ii) The strategy covered children and young people from the ages of 0 – 19 which was the same age range used for the Children and Families Plan as well as other services and it was felt appropriate for the strategy.
- (iii) The safeguarding policies were refreshed on an annual basis and relevant staff within the Council had been trained to look out for any signs of concern and to report them to a safeguarding officer.