

## OVERVIEW SCRUTINY GROUP – 13TH AUGUST 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 May 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. AMENDMENTS TO THE ANNUAL PROCUREMENT PLAN 2018/19

C. HEALTH AND SAFETY PERFORMANCE REPORT 2017/18

Details of the Group's consideration of the items as reported to the Cabinet on the 5th July 2018 are set out in the appendix to this report.

The Chair of the Group, Councillor Capleton, attended the Cabinet's meeting on the 5th July 2018 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.

##### Amendments to the Annual Procurement Plan 2018/19

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

*Health and Safety Performance Report 2017/18*

The Cabinet adopted the office 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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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 Lead Member and Head of Finance and Property 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 Finance and Property Services and the Head of Finance and Property Services attended the meeting to assist with consideration of the item and gave the following responses to issues raised:

- (i) Following the Grenfell Tower incident and the more recent Liverpool car park incident the Council wanted to ensure that the Beehive Lane Car Park safety measures were up the highest standard
- (ii) A consultation process was not required as a full risk assessment had been undertaken and the requirements of the car park had been assessed to identify measures that would improve fire safety.
- (iii) It was not necessary to close the car park while the work was being carried out as the risk was low to members of the public.
- (iv) Officers would check and advise the Committee the current arrangements regarding the provision of fire extinguishers at the car park.

## AMENDMENTS TO THE ANNUAL PROCUREMENT PLAN 2018/19

### 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 Finance and Property Services.

### Reason

Having considered the report and asked questions of the Lead Member for Finance and Property Services and the Procurement Manager 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 Procurement Manager attended the meeting to assist with consideration of the item and gave the following responses to issues raised:

- (i) The Tenants Home Contents Insurance contract was explained to the Group as a service provided to the tenants whereby they were advised on a suitable insurance provider. The contract had a 4 year lifespan so needed to be re-tendered.
- (ii) The Group questioned the scheme of delegation and the amount of money that Heads of Service could authorise. The Lead Member advised that officers were trained professionals in procurement and the Cabinet were happy to take their advice.
- (iii) The Lead Member advised that the Cabinet was happy with the current level of delegation as a clear process had been agreed that worked well.

## HEALTH AND SAFETY PERFORMANCE REPORT 2017/18

### 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 Strategic Support.

### Reason

Having considered the report and asked questions of the Head of Strategic Support 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 Head of Strategic Support attended the meeting to assist with consideration of the item and gave the following responses to issues raised:

- (i) The report showed a downward trend for the number of accidents over the year which was seen as positive and showed that the Council was taking steps to mitigate any possible accidents.
- (ii) The Council was now taking an assurance based approach whereby managers and directors were given advice regarding health and safety in the workplace.
- (iii) No benchmarking was available other than comparison with previous years as it was difficult to measure the Council against others due to the different services provided and the number of interactions varied wildly. It was possible to say that the Council dealt with a large number of interactions throughout the year of which the accident level was comparably low.
- (iv) A higher level of detail was requested by the Group for next year's report which was noted by the Head of Strategic Support.
- (v) The central recording system was clarified for the Group as being held by the Health and Safety Team and each service notified them of any accidents within their team.
- (vi) Current policies and procedures were being reviewed and work was underway to improve the documents.