

CABINET – 15TH OCTOBER 2020

Report of the Scrutiny Commission

ITEM 11 COMMERCIALISM POSITION STATEMENT

Purpose of Report

To consider the comments and recommendations of the Scrutiny Commission in relation to the Commercialism Position Statement report.

Recommendation of the Scrutiny Commission

That the Cabinet be informed that the Commission welcomes and supports the recommendations set out in the report of the Strategic Director of Commercial Development, Assets and Leisure.

Reason

The Commission, having carefully considered and asked questions on the report felt the Cabinet should approve the recommendation set out.

Meeting Discussion

- i. The Commercial Investment Strategy was distinct from the Commercialism Position Statement. The Council would be required to reduce costs in addition to generating commercial income in order to improve the Council's financial situation and deliver the Medium Term Financial Strategy. The balance of these two aspects was flexible and the Council would ensure regular monitoring and reporting of the balance achieved.
- ii. Internal commercialisation and investment, such as the proposals put forward as part of the Loughborough Town Deal were possible and the Council had commissioned expertise in order to realise the initiatives put forward. Any investment the Council was involved in would be accompanied by a robust, statutory compliant and auditable business case.
- iii. The sale of existing assets was possible but would be carefully considered to ensure there would be no detriment to the delivery of Council services or efficiency.
- iv. The Council was risk aware and statutory obligations meant that there was an objective judgement on the commercial strategy of the Council, meaning an appropriate level of risk mitigation and risk analysis was undertaken. Officers within the Council had an opportunity to challenge ideas and the Council would also seek professional advice externally if this was required.
- v. Charnwood and its unique attributes were attractive to private investors. The Local Plan, the Loughborough Town Deal proposal and the Enterprise Zones

provided a significant opportunity for development. The Council regularly engaged with local businesses to support effective working relationships and this had continued throughout the pandemic.

- vi. The Council would focus on generating surplus income and reducing subsidy, commissioning and behaving commercially in order to help satisfy the Medium Term Financial Strategy.

Policy Justification and Previous Decisions

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

Implementation Timetable including Future Decisions and Scrutiny

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

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 Scrutiny Commission.

Risk Management

There are no specific risks associated with the recommendations of the Scrutiny Commission.

Key Decision:	No
Background Paper:	Scrutiny Commission Minute 65 2020/21, 12th October 2020
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