

OVERVIEW SCRUTINY GROUP – 10TH SEPTEMBER 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. CHARNWOOD SITES SAFETY AND SECURITY

B. MODEL OF LOCAL GOVERNMENT IN LEICESTERSHIRE

Details of the Group's consideration of the items as reported to the Cabinet on the 16th August 2018 are set out in the appendix to this report.

The Chair of the Group, Councillor Capleton, attended the Cabinet's meeting on the 16th August 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:

Charnwood Sites Safety and Security

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

Model of Local Government in Leicestershire

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

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CHARNWOOD SITES SAFETY AND SCEURITY

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 Neighbourhood Services and the Head of Cleansing and Open Spaces.

Reason

Having considered the report and asked questions of the Lead Member for Performance of Major Contracts and the Head of Cleansing and Open Spaces 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 Performance of Major Contracts and the Head of Cleansing and Open Spaces attended the meeting to assist with consideration of the item and gave the following responses to issues raised:

- (i) The procurement process had been completed so there was already a contractor in place ready to carry out the work required.
- (ii) There was a small budget available to deal with minor repairs but not enough to cover the amount of work required for all the open space locations. The work was deemed necessary given the recent problems with some areas which is why additional funding was being requested.

MODEL OF LOCAL GOVERNMENT IN LEICESTERSHIRE

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 Chief Executive.

Reason

Having considered the report and asked questions of the Chief Executive 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 Chief Executive 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 report set out the position stated by District Council Leaders across Leicestershire, the decision made by the Leicestershire County Council Cabinet and the Leader's response, and set out various guidance from central ministers regarding local government restructuring.