

EAST HERTS COUNCIL

EXECUTIVE – 17 JULY 2018

REPORT BY OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY COMMITTEE CHAIRMAN

OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY COMMITTEE UPDATE

WARD(S) AFFECTED: All

Purpose/Summary of Report

- This report details the comments and recommendations made by the Overview and Scrutiny Committee meeting on 19 June 2018.

<u>RECOMMENDATION FOR EXECUTIVE:</u>	
(A)	That Executive notes the contents of the report.

1.0 Background

1.1 The Overview and Scrutiny Committee met on 19th June 2018 and considered the following items:

- Update from the Executive Member for Health and Wellbeing
- Appointment of Vice-Chairman
- Proposed Capital Development of Hertford Theatre and surrounding areas
- Contract Options for Grounds Maintenance Contract – Findings of the Scrutiny Task and Finish Group
- Work Programme Update
- Old River Lane, Bishop’s Stortford - Update

2.0 Update from the Executive Member for Health and Wellbeing

2.1 The Executive Member for Health and Wellbeing was invited to provide a presentation and update on the progress on the Leisure Strategy works.

2.2 The Committee welcomed the presentation, which outlined progress on key work areas including site plans/pre-application, technical specification, facilities specification, services specification, background documents, contract, performance management, leases and outline planning.

3.0 Appointment of the Vice Chairman

3.1 Councillor J Jones was appointed as the Vice-Chairman of the Committee.

4.0 Proposed Capital Development of Hertford Theatre and surrounding areas

4.1 The Committee considered a report on the proposed capital development of Hertford Theatre and surrounding areas and welcomed the thorough and engaging presentation provided.

4.2 During their thorough discussion of the proposal, Members highlighted the importance of Member involvement in the project at all stages going forward and officers agreed to ensure this would be taken into account. It was noted that the expansion proposals were agreed by the Committee in the Service Plan in March 2018. There was discussion of loan arrangements and conservation of the ancient motte. The Committee discussed the proposed plans for parking in the context of Hertford and in comparison to other nearby cinemas, and specifically highlighted the need for adequate accessible parking for those with disabilities.

4.3 The Committee recommended that its views be recorded in the minutes; the Executive be advised that the Committee supports investment on the basis of the “Growth and Legacy” as the preferred option; and that the project be supported by increased Member involvement.

5.0 Contract Options for Grounds Maintenance Contract – Findings of the Scrutiny Task and Finish Group

5.1 The Committee considered a report outlining the findings of the Grounds Maintenance Scrutiny Task and Finish Group, which included the results of soft market testing. The Chairman of the Grounds Maintenance Task and Finish Group provided the Committee with an outline of the work undertaken by the Task and Finish Group its recommendations.

5.2 The Committee discussed the funding provided to HCC and the noted that this saving over the contract term would equate to £100,000 per annum. It was noted that St Albans, Hertsmere and Three Rivers Councils had all removed the “top up” arrangement, resulting in no significant problems. Members suggested the importance of ensuring refuse bin capacity was regularly reviewed. The Committee discussed the soft market testing and noted that five or six companies had expressed an interest in tendering for the contract.

5.3 The Committee recommended that the Executive be advised that Members support:

- (A) a proposal to offer the contract for a term of 8 years with the potential for a 5 year extension;
- (B) the design and tender of a contract which delivers the same quality standards across the district continuing with a performance / output approach as opposed to a scheduled delivery of works; and

(C) the need to make savings to offset the increase in costs of a new contract by no longer funding a “top up” to cut Hertfordshire County Council grass to the East Hertfordshire Council standard (saving approximately £800,000 over the contract term).

6.0 Work Programme Update

6.1 The Committee received a report which provided an update on the current status of the Committee’s Work Programme for 2018-2019, including Task and Finish Groups.

6.2 The Committee approved the draft Work Programme for Overview and Scrutiny Committee.

7.0 Old River Lane, Bishop’s Stortford

7.1 The Committee considered a report and presentation providing a detailed update on the progress of the Old River Lane site in Bishop’s Stortford, including an outline of the vision for the site (including some procurement options) and further exempt information which required exclusion of the press and public.

7.2 The Committee discussed the report and presentations in detail and noted that Members of the Arts Centre Working Group had undertaken research and visits to explore possibilities for arts and cultural centres that would fit within the vision for Old River Lane. It was noted that The Rhodes Centre had signed up to the vision for a new arts and entertainment centre and is working with the Council under the auspices of the Heads of Terms agreement. In discussion, Members were provided with clarification on minimizing risk; Charringtons House current occupancy; land costs and disposal; affordable housing; and how funding gaps would be addressed. Members highlighted the success of the Launchpad scheme and expressed their support for its continuation, and noted that officers would evaluate this and

identify the most suitable option to accommodate it going forward.

- 7.3 The Committee recommended that the Executive be advised that Members support the suggested delivery model as set out in the exempt Essential Reference Paper D (Business Case) and summarised in paragraph 2.2 of the report and the procurement phasing, set out in exempt Essential Reference Paper E (Procurement Strategy) and summarised in paragraph 2.4 of the report; and note the impact in relation to the Risk Register as detailed in Essential Reference Paper F.

8.0 Potential Kingsmead Scheme

- 8.1 The Committee agreed to defer this item to its next meeting on 10th July 2018.

Background Papers

None

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