REPORT TO: Cabinet   1 July 2019

FROM: Councillor Grenville Chamberlain, Chairman, Scrutiny and Overview
Committee
Councillor Brian Milnes, Vice Chairman, Scrutiny and Overview
Committee

Update from the Scrutiny and Overview Committee Chairman

Purpose

1.   This report is to inform Cabinet of the discussions and recommendations agreed by the Scrutiny and Overview Committee at its meeting of 13 June 2019, which Cabinet may wish to take into account in its decision making.

Compulsory Purchase Order of The Tree, 9 Bar Lane, Stapleford – Public Representations

2.   The committee heard a statement from a representative of The Tree Action Group in favour of the CPO and noted a written statement from a resident opposing the CPO and a written statement from the owner of The Tree. Two local members also addressed the committee speaking in support of the CPO.

Compulsory Purchase Order of The Tree (Confidential Item)

3.   The committee moved to confidential session in order to discuss the report relating to the Compulsory Purchase Order of The Tree. Following a long and detailed discussion, a vote was taken on the recommendation; six members voted in support of the recommendation, four members voted against and two members abstained. The committee therefore endorsed the recommendation to Cabinet.

Investment Strategy – Investment Partnerships (Confidential Item)

4.   The discussion regarding this item took place in confidential session. Following a lengthy discussion, a vote was taken and the majority of the committee endorsed the recommendations to Cabinet. Two members of the committee did not support the recommendations and thought this issue should be considered and decided by full Council.

Investment Strategy – Core Staffing Establishment (Confidential Item)

5.   The committee unanimously endorsed the recommendations to Cabinet.

Renewal of Shared Service Agreement for the Cambridgeshire Home Improvement Agency (CHIA)

6. The committee expressed its support for the CHIA and endorsed the recommendation that Cabinet approve the renewal of the Cambridgeshire Home Improvement Agency shared service agreement for a further three years. This was subject to the suggested addition of a service objective, that modifications to properties reflected the Council's objective of being green to the core.

Shared Services Annual Reports

7. During its discussion of the Shared Services Annual Reports and the shared services in general, the committee raised the following:
   - Committee members found the euphemistic, soft language used in the annual reports unhelpful and members commented on the lack of use of plain English.
   - Outstanding issues with the ICT shared service were raised, such as the lack of a service level agreement and legal entity.
   - The committee was concerned about the lack of opportunity for members to feed into the shared services governance process.
   - The committee suggested there should be member involvement in the setting of service level agreements for the shared services.
   - The committee requested to see shared services quarterly performance monitoring reports on an ongoing basis.

8. The committee endorsed the recommendations to Cabinet, subject to the following amendment (highlighted in bold text) to recommendation (d), which was proposed by the Lead Cabinet Member for Customer Services and Business Improvement:
   d) Agree, as part of the discussion identified in (c)…that prompt attention be given to the outstanding milestones and actions identified in the original Shared Services Partnership Agreement and to ensuring that the quality standards, performance levels and benefits from the integrated services are defined, understood and clearly documented, **measured and monitored.**

9. The committee agreed the following additional recommendations to Cabinet:

   e) That there was shared scrutiny of all the shared services.

   f) That shared services governance meetings were properly held.

Report Author: Victoria Wallace, Scrutiny and Governance Adviser