



## **MINUTES OF A MEETING OF THE CORPORATE SCRUTINY COMMITTEE HELD ON 30th JANUARY 2020**

**PRESENT:** Councillor T Jay (Chair), Councillors B Price, R Bilcliff, R Claymore, R Ford, S Goodall, Dr S Peale, P Standen and M Summers

**CABINET** Councillor R Pritchard and Councillor J Oates.

The following officers were present: Andrew Barratt (Chief Executive), Rob Barnes (Executive Director Communities), Anna Miller (Assistant Director – Growth & Regeneration), Paul Weston (Assistant Director Assets), Rebecca Neill (Head of Audit & Governance and Monitoring Officer) and Jo Hutchison (Democratic Services, Scrutiny and Elections Officer)

There were no apologies.

### **70 MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING**

The Minutes of the meeting held on 5<sup>th</sup> December 2019 were approved and signed as a correct record.

*(Moved by Councillor Dr S Peale and seconded by Councillor M Summers)*

### **71 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

There were no declarations of interest.

### **72 CHAIR'S UPDATE**

The Chair reminded members that all Councillors had been invited to a Housing Disrepairs & Investment Contractors Members presentation on 12th February 2020.

### **73 RESPONSES TO REPORTS OF THE CORPORATE SCRUTINY COMMITTEE**

The Chair reported that the update on the Cleaning Services review which had been requested at the 5<sup>th</sup> December 2019 Committee meeting had been circulated to all members.

Members confirmed that they had no further comments on this matter.

## 74 CONSIDERATION OF MATTERS REFERRED TO THE CORPORATE SCRUTINY COMMITTEE FROM CABINET / COUNCIL

No items had been referred to this Committee.

## 75 WORKING GROUP UPDATES

The Chair updated the Committee on the work that had been undertaken by the QPR Executive Summary working group and reported that the proposed summary report had been included on the agenda for the next Corporate Scrutiny Committee meeting on 5<sup>th</sup> February 2020 and would be discussed at that meeting.

The Chair reported that his discussions continued on the utilisation of scoping documents and that he would bring forward an item on this matter, if required.

## 76 2019/20 FORWARD PLAN

No further items from the Forward Plan were identified for this Committee's consideration at this time.

## 77 REVIEW OF HOUSING GARAGE SITES

The Committee received the Report of the Portfolio Holder for Assets and Finance on the Review of Housing Garage Sites and the Chair welcomed the Portfolio Holder, the Executive Director Communities and the Assistant Director Assets to the meeting.

The report set out the project plan for the review of housing garage sites. The Portfolio Holder reported that a desktop exercise had been undertaken and two work streams identified.

Members of the Committee sought clarification on:

- the lack of engagement with all ward councillors in the desk top exercise. The Portfolio Holder reported that this was a Cabinet project which at a later stage would involve all ward councillors in the process. The Portfolio Holder reported that the project was currently at an early stage.
- the lack of detail within the report on the issues which led to this review.

The Chair asked that the Portfolio Holder and Officers consider the comments made in terms of the contents of the report.

**RESOLVED** that the Committee endorsed the project plan for review of the housing garage sites.

*(Moved by Councillor M Summers and seconded by Councillor B Price)*

In accordance with Rule 12.5 (Right to require individual vote to be recorded) of Schedule 1 (Non-Regulatory Procedure Rules), Councillors P Standen, Dr S People and R Bilcliff voted against the above motion.

The Portfolio Holder for Assets and Finance, the Executive Director, Communities and the Assistant Director, Assets left the meeting.

## 78 GUNGATE UPDATE

The Committee received the report of the Chief Executive which provided an update to the Committee on the progress on the Gungate Masterplan programme.

The Chair welcomed the Portfolio Holder for Growth and Regeneration, the Chief Executive and the Assistant Director, Growth and Regeneration to the meeting.

The Chief Executive reported that the council had purchased the precinct site a few years ago as an investment opportunity with regeneration potential. The basis of the council purchasing the site was the regeneration opportunity in that part of town. The Chief Executive reported that Cabinet had approved a preferred draft masterplan and authorised the Chief Executive and his team to enter into discussions and prepare and submit funding applications. In addition consultants were appointed who have produced a preferred option. The masterplan had identified various sites which were suitable for different uses, however, the overall plan had retained flexibility to ensure that opportunities could be maximised as it was reported that one criteria for the council was to ensure that the project delivered an appropriate return on the council's investment.

The Chief Executive reported that discussions with Staffordshire County Council, who own a site adjacent to council owned property, had been positive and the council has had discussions with other landowners on the site and whilst discussions with some landowners were underway discussions with one landowner had not progressed as well, such that other methods were being considered, including the consideration of the use of a compulsory purchase order.

The Chief Executive reported that the master planning process needed to be considered by scrutiny and then Cabinet and then proceed to public consultation. In terms of timing, consultation on the Gungate Masterplan was not expected to commence until after the May elections.

The Chief Executive reported that the key issues for the Council were timing in terms of land assembly and the viability of the project, in terms of achieving necessary funding.

The Committee sought and received clarification in the following areas:

- the facilitation of electric vehicle charging in any new multi-storey car park, the principle of which the Chief Executive supported.
- the interaction between the Gungate project and the Future High Street Fund project. The Chief Executive reported that there was no overlap between these two projects and that the Gungate project was a stand-alone scheme, however the Gungate scheme would demonstrate the Council's commitment to Tamworth's high street and show that

interventions were being planned in Gungate which would help support the growth of the town. The Assistant Director reported that the two schemes complement one another and whilst the rules for the development of the business case for the Future High Street fund application were strict, the costs and benefits being delivered by the Gungate scheme could be reported as part of the Future High Street Fund project. The Portfolio Holder reminded members that the Future High Street Fund was a competitive process with other local authorities and the Gungate project helped to make Tamworth's application more competitive.

- whether Officers had seen any evidence of the easing of the Green Book rules in their application to this project which the Prime Minister had recently announced. The Assistant Director reported that it was not expected that there would be any changes before the submission of the outline submission in mid March 2020, but it was possible that there could be changes prior to the final submission to Government.
- the potential timing and cost implications involved with any potential legal process to fully assemble the land. It was reported that the project was planned to be developed in a staged process which would allow some flexibility.
- the engagement process with all councillors. The Portfolio Holder and the Chief Executive recognised the importance for all councillors to be involved in this major undertaking. It was agreed that a seminar involving all members (anticipated May 2020) would be held prior to Cabinet to provide an opportunity to view and comment on proposals. The members seminar would be followed by consideration at a scrutiny committee (anticipated June 2020) where recommendations to Cabinet could be proposed. Following any Cabinet approval the Masterplan would be issued for public consultation.

The Portfolio Holder for Heritage and Growth, the Chief Executive, the Assistant Director, Growth and Regeneration and Councillor R Ford left the meeting.

## **79 CORPORATE SCRUTINY COMMITTEE WORK PLAN**

The Chair reported that he proposed to change the date of the March meeting from 12th March. The Chair reported that the preferred date to move this meeting to would be Wednesday 25th March 2020 and he canvassed members' views on this revised date. Councillor Dr S People reported that he would not be able to attend a meeting on the revised date. Advice was sought as to whether this would affect his attendance which it was confirmed that it would. Following confirmation that other members were available for that date, the Chair reported that the meeting would be rescheduled to 25th March.

The items on the Work Plan were considered and it was agreed as follows:

- Member Support working group (member communications) – Councillors S Goodall and Dr S People to revisit and consider whether to bring an update to 25th March meeting.
- 12 month review of Cabinet decisions – the Chair and scrutiny officer to produce a summary of the Cabinet decisions over last 12 months for

circulation to members. The Leader to be invited to attend 25th March meeting.

- Gungate Masterplan to be added to a meeting in June 2020 (date to be confirmed).

The Work Plan was amended as follows:

### Corporate Scrutiny Work Plan

<b>Work Plan 2019 – 2020</b>		
<b>TARGET MEETING DATE</b>	<b>SUBJECT</b>	<b>MEETING WHEN ITEM ADDED TO WORK PLAN</b>
5 <sup>th</sup> February 2020	QPR Q3 2019/20 Report	Regular item
5 <sup>th</sup> February 2020	Review of senior management restructuring (update)	
5 <sup>th</sup> February 2020	Working group report on QPR Report Executive Summary	June 2019
25 <sup>th</sup> March 2020	Member Training update	June 2019
25 <sup>th</sup> March 2020	Member Support Working group – sub group on Member Communications	
25 <sup>th</sup> March 2020	Review of Cabinet decisions over previous 12 month period	
May 2020	Parking Toolkit review	October 2019
June 2020	Gungate Masterplan	January 2020
June 2020	Local Council Tax Reduction Scheme 2021 onwards - revisit	November 2019
July 2020	Review of Legal Services (post implementation)	November 2019
August 2020	The Assembly Rooms – review of project	November 2019
TBC	Housing Repairs & Investment Contract Review	November 2019
TBC	Solway Trading Company Update (2x per year)	December 2019
TBC	Market tender progress Update	August 2019
Quarter 4 2020	Asset Management update	December 2019

<b>Upcoming Corporate Scrutiny Committee Meetings</b>
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25 <sup>th</sup> March 2020 (moved from 12 <sup>th</sup> March)
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Chair

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