

Report of the Chair

Scrutiny Programme Committee – 18 November 2015

PRE-DECISION SCRUTINY OF CABINET REPORT – DISPOSAL OF FORMER CIVIC CENTRE AND ADJOINING LAND, PENLLERGAER (ROLE OF THE COMMITTEE)

Purpose	This report advises the committee of the aim of the meeting and provides guidance on pre-decision scrutiny ahead of consideration of the Cabinet report on 'Disposal of Former Civic Centre and Adjoining Land, Penllergaer'
Content	This report is focussed on the role of the committee in undertaking pre-decision scrutiny.
Councillors are being asked to	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• consider the Cabinet report and proposals• agree any views on the proposed decision that are to be submitted to Cabinet
Lead Councillor	Councillor Mary Jones, Chair of Scrutiny Programme Committee
Lead Cabinet Member / Officer(s)	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Councillor Rob Stewart – Cabinet Member for Finance & Strategy• Phil Roberts, Director – Place
Report Author	Brij Madahar, Scrutiny Coordinator Telephone: 01792 637257 brij.madahar@swansea.gov.uk

1. Introduction

- 1.1 A councillor request for pre-decision scrutiny of the Cabinet report on the 'Disposal of Former Civic Centre and Adjoining Land, Penllergaer' was received. The report is due to be considered by Cabinet on 19 November. As a result a special Scrutiny Programme Committee has been arranged in order to undertake pre-decision scrutiny of this report.

2. Cabinet Report

- 2.1 The committee will note that this Cabinet report is an exempt report which necessitates discussion by the committee in closed session. The report is included in the agenda papers as Item 6.

3. Role of the Committee

3.1 Pre-decision scrutiny provides the opportunity for consultation with non-Executive Members on fully developed proposals, where a clear recommendation exists, before decisions are taken by the Executive.

3.2 This meeting will enable the committee to gain information and develop an understanding of this matter, and, acting as a 'critical friend', to ask questions and comment on the report. This gives scrutiny a valuable opportunity to inform and influence decision-making through debate and challenge.

3.3 Councillor Rob Stewart, Cabinet Member for Finance & Strategy, is unable to attend the meeting due to pre-existing diary commitments. However relevant officer(s) involved in the development of the report will be in attendance to assist the committee and provide appropriate advice.

3.4 In terms of key questions, the Committee may want to consider:

- the rationale for the report
- robustness of the proposed decision and process
- potential impact and implications (including policy / performance / budget issues) and risks
- how different options have been considered
- the extent of consultation undertaken

3.5 In sharing its views with cabinet this may include giving support, providing other suggestions on the way forward, or flagging up any concerns.

3.6 The committee (through the chair) will have the opportunity to present its views, conclusions and recommendations about the report to Cabinet on 19 November. These views are required to be formally considered by Cabinet before it makes the decision and feedback should be given to the committee including explanation for any rejection of views expressed.

4. Legal Implications

4.1 In accordance with the Council's Constitution "pre-decision scrutiny gives scrutiny the opportunity to influence Cabinet decision making as a critical friend". "The views of the scrutiny committee are formally presented (either in a written report or verbally by the scrutiny Chair) to the Cabinet meeting for the Cabinet to consider and inform its decision making".

5. Financial Implications

- 5.1 There are no specific financial implications raised by this report. Financial implications of the actual cabinet report are contained within that report which is appended.

Background Papers: None

Legal Officer: Debbie Smith

Finance Officer: Carl Billingsley