

Report of the Chair

Scrutiny Programme Committee – 13 June 2016

PRE-DECISION SCRUTINY OF CABINET REPORT – CASTLE SQUARE – DEVELOPMENT & PUBLIC REALM OPPORTUNITY

Purpose	This report provides guidance on pre-decision scrutiny ahead of consideration of the Cabinet report on 'Castle Square – Development & Public Realm Opportunity'
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 Robert Francis-Davies – Cabinet Member for Enterprise, Development & Regeneration• Martin Nicholls, Director – Place
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1. Introduction

1.1 Following a review of future cabinet business at a recent meeting the committee requested to undertake pre-decision scrutiny of the Cabinet report of the Cabinet Member for Enterprise, Development & Regeneration on "Castle Square – Development & Public Realm Opportunity".

1.2 The report, which is due to be considered by Cabinet on 16 June, is included in the agenda for the committee to undertake pre-decision scrutiny of this report.

2. Cabinet Report

2.1 The committee will note that the 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 18.

3. Role of the Committee

3.1 The purpose of pre-decision scrutiny:

- It entitles scrutiny to discuss proposed Cabinet reports, where a clear recommendation(s) exists, before decisions are taken by the Executive.
- Acting as a 'critical friend', it enables scrutiny to ask questions about a report to develop understanding and inform and influence decision-making, for example asking about:
 - the rationale for the report
 - robustness of the proposed decision and decision-making process
 - potential impact and implications (including policy/budget issues) and risks
 - how different options have been considered
 - the extent of consultation undertakenetc.
- It enables scrutiny to report its views to Cabinet - the chair, on behalf of the committee, can attend the Cabinet meeting to share the views of scrutiny on a report prior to Cabinet decision.
- The views of scrutiny are required to be formally considered by Cabinet before it makes the decision and feedback should be given including explanation for any rejection of views expressed.

3.2 Councillor Robert Francis-Davies, Cabinet Member for Enterprise, Development & Regeneration will attend the meeting to present the report and answer questions, along with relevant officer(s) involved in the development of the report who will assist the committee and provide appropriate advice.

3.3 In sharing its views with cabinet this may include giving support, providing other suggestions on the way forward, or flagging up any concerns. The committee (through the chair) will have the opportunity to present its views, conclusions and recommendations about the report to Cabinet on 16 June.

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: Wendy Parkin
Finance Officer: Paul Cridland