



Report of the Chair

Special Scrutiny Programme Committee – 17 October 2017

Pre-decision Scrutiny – Role of the Committee

Purpose	This report provides guidance on pre-decision scrutiny ahead of consideration of the Cabinet report on: a) Castle Square Regeneration
Content	This covering report is focussed on the role of the Committee in undertaking pre-decision scrutiny. The actual Cabinet report which is being considered by Cabinet on 19 October is appended.
Councillors are being asked to	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • note the pre-decision scrutiny process and role of the Committee • consider the Cabinet report and proposals • agree any views on the proposed decision that are to be raised with Cabinet
Lead Councillor	Councillor Mary Jones, Chair of Scrutiny Programme Committee
Cabinet Report Lead Member / Officer(s)	Robert Francis-Davies, Cabinet Member for Culture, Tourism & Major Projects Gail Evans, Principal Regeneration Manager
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1. Introduction

- 1.1 The Scrutiny Programme Committee will carry out pre-decision scrutiny or delegate reports to be considered to relevant Scrutiny Panels.
- 1.2 A decision on the following report is being taken by Cabinet on 19 October:

- Castle Square Regeneration

Following the decision of Cabinet in March 2017, this report presents an appraisal of regeneration options for Castle Square, and a development and marketing brief with an evaluation of delivery options.

The committee previously agreed to undertake pre-decision scrutiny of any future reports on the development of Castle Square.

2. Role of the Committee

2.1 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 undertaken etc.
- It enables scrutiny to report its views and any issues to Cabinet. The chair, on behalf of the Committee, can attend the Cabinet meeting to share the views of scrutiny on the report prior to Cabinet decision. This may include giving support, providing other suggestions on the way forward, or flagging up any concerns.
- 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.

2.2 Relevant Cabinet Members will attend the meeting to respond to questions and issues raised. Relevant officer(s) involved in the development of the report(s) will also be present to assist the Committee and provide appropriate advice.

2.3 The Committee (through the chair) will write to the relevant Cabinet Member with its views following pre-decision scrutiny. The chair will have the opportunity to attend the cabinet meeting on 19 October to verbally feedback the Committee's views, conclusions and recommendations about the report.

3. Cabinet Response

3.1 Cabinet must formally consider scrutiny views at its meeting. It may decide that any issues raised by scrutiny can be dealt with at the meeting and decision taken. It may decide that more time is needed to consider the views of scrutiny and defer decision to the next (or a special) meeting of Cabinet.

3.2 The relevant Cabinet Member is expected to write back to the Committee with feedback from Cabinet, and should include explanation of any rejection of scrutiny views.

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(s) are contained within those reports.

Background Papers: None

Appendices: Cabinet Report 19 October 2017 – Castle Square Regeneration