

**EXECUTIVE OVERVIEW & SCRUTINY
COMMITTEE**

HELD: Thursday, 25 June 2020

Start: 7.00 pm

Finish: 8.06 pm

PRESENT:

Councillor: D West (Chair)

Councillors:	M Nixon (Vice-Chair)	I Ashcroft
	R Cooper	S Evans
	M Mills	G Owen
	A Owens	A Sutton
	D Westley	D Whittington

In attendance: D Evans, Portfolio Holder for Planning (Agenda Item 13)

Officers: Heidi McDougall, Corporate Director of Place & Community
Mike Kostrzewski, Deputy Borough Treasurer
Ian Gill, Head of Growth and Development Services
Peter Richards, Strategic Planning & Implementation Manager
Adam Spicer, Assistant Solicitor
Jacky Denning, Democratic Services Manager
Julia Brown, Member Services/Civic Officer

1 **APOLOGIES**

There were no apologies for absence received.

2 **MEMBERSHIP OF THE COMMITTEE**

There were no changes to Membership of the Committee.

3 **URGENT BUSINESS, IF ANY, INTRODUCED BY THE CHAIRMAN**

There were no items of urgent business.

4 **DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

There were no declarations of interest.

5 **DECLARATIONS OF PARTY WHIP**

There were no declarations of Party Whip.

6 **MINUTES**

RESOLVED: That the Minutes of the meeting held on 30 January 2020 be received as a correct record and signed by the Chairman.

7 PUBLIC SPEAKING

There were no items under this heading.

8 CALL IN ITEMS

There were no items under this heading.

9 RELEVANT MINUTES OF CABINET

Consideration was given to the Minutes of Cabinet held on 10 March 2020 and 9 June 2020 as contained on pages 13 to 24 of the Book of Reports.

a Cabinet - Minutes of the meeting held on 10 March 2020

RESOLVED: That the Minutes of Cabinet held on 10 March 2020 be noted.

b Cabinet - Minutes of the meeting held on 9 June 2020

RESOLVED: That the Minutes of Cabinet held on 9 June 2020 be noted.

10 DRAFT COUNCIL VISION AND PLAN 2020/21 - 2022/23

Consideration was given to the report of the Corporate Director of Transformation and Resources as contained on pages 25 to 30 and 77 to 78 of the Book of Reports which was to consider the revised Draft Council Vision and Plan and endorse the proposed process for approving the final Plan.

The Corporate Director of Place and Community outlined the report and explained that the Draft Council Vision and Plan identified seven priorities to take forward.

Members raised several comments in respect of the Draft Council Vision and Plan, in which the Corporate Director of Place and Community noted, and explained that Members will have the opportunity to raise comments and feedback at the proposed Scrutiny Workshop. She also explained that the Draft Council Vision and Plan will undergo stakeholder consultation by residents and partner agencies which will be presented to Cabinet in September.

RESOLVED: A. That the Draft revised Vision and Council Plan at Appendix One to the report be noted.

B. That the proposed process outlined in paragraph 3.3 of the report for approving the final Plan be endorsed.

C. That the Workshop Session be held virtually on Tuesday 14 July 2020 at 6.00pm with the Leader, Deputy Leader and Members of the Executive Overview and Scrutiny Committee and the Corporate and Environmental Overview and Scrutiny Committee.

11 MINUTES OF MEMBER DEVELOPMENT COMMISSION

Consideration was given to the Minutes of the Member Development Commission held on 4 February 2020 and 12 March 2020 as contained on pages 31 to 38 of the Book of Reports.

a Minutes of Member Development Commission - 4 February 2020

RESOLVED: That the Minutes of the Member Development Commission held on 4 February 2020 be noted.

b Minutes of Member Development Commission - 12 March 2020

A question was raised in respect of Minute 30 – SORP Member Development Project, in relation to the revised Draft Questionnaire which was due to be circulated to all Members in April 2020.

The Democratic Services Manager explained that there had been a delay with the circulation of the questionnaires due to the Covid-19 pandemic, however it would be circulated to members in due course.

RESOLVED: That the Minutes of the Member Development Commission held 12 March 2020 be noted.

12 HRA REVENUE AND CAPITAL MONITORING

Consideration was given to the report of the Corporate Director of Place and Community as contained on pages 39 to 44 of the Book of Reports which provided an update on the current position in respect of the 2019/20 Housing Revenue Account (HRA) and Council Housing Capital Investment Programme. The report had previously been considered by Cabinet on 10 March 2020.

The Deputy Borough Treasurer attended the meeting and provided an overview of the report referring to details set down in the report and appendices.

RESOLVED: That the financial position in respect of the 2019/20 HRA and Council Housing Capital Programme be noted.

**13 USE OF CAPITAL FUNDING FOR PUBLIC REALM IMPROVEMENTS AT
WHEATSHEAF WALK**

Consideration was given to the report of the Corporate Director of Place and Communities, as contained on pages 45 to 70 of the Book of Reports, which was referred to the Committee from the Cabinet meeting held on 9 June 2020. The report sought the Committee's agreed comments regarding the use of capital funding for urgent public realm improvements at Wheatsheaf Walk, to include the removal of the pagoda and planters to create a more open and functional space to aid social distancing and the re-opening of businesses during the current COVID-19

outbreak, which would then be considered by the Director in consultation with the relevant Portfolio Holder.

A comment was moved and seconded in the following terms:

"The Executive Overview and Scrutiny have concerns about the proposals for the following reasons:

Given the recent relaxation of the Lockdown Regulations, including the opening of shops and the planned opening of bars, cafes and restaurants on the 4 July, the time window for the urgent removal of the Pagoda and Planters has now passed. The necessary closure of public access to Wheatsheaf Walks while the proposed demolition work is undertaken, is likely to have a detrimental impact on the newly opened businesses.

In Paragraph 4.9 of the Report, mention is made of the possible use of "Small Square" for delivery vehicles to park or turn around yet the illustrations provided show that this would not be possible due to proposed installation of a concrete bench.

The Committee is also mindful that the responses from the Public Consultation undertaken by the Council does not provide strong support for the proposals and that there appears to be considerable opposition on social media.

Consequently, the Executive Overview & Scrutiny Committee recommend to the Cabinet that it adopt the alternative approach detailed in Paragraph 4.12 of the Report i.e. to retain the Pagoda and Planters and consider their removal or long term retention at a later date with the wider public realm improvements at Wheatsheaf Walk and that once these have been formulated they be subject to a full Public Consultation."

A vote was taken on the 'comment' and at the request of a Member, was recorded as follows:

FOR: Councillors I Ashcroft, A Owens, A Sutton, D Westley and D Whittington (FIVE)

AGAINST: Councillors R Cooper, S Evans, M Mills, M Nixon, G Owen and D West (SIX)

The 'comment' was NOT AGREED.

The Portfolio Holder, who was in attendance for this item only, advised the Committee that given the close result of the vote, he would consider this item further with Cabinet colleagues at an informal meeting being held on Friday, 26 June 2020, prior to any decision being taken in respect of the removal of the pagoda and planters.

The following Motion was moved and seconded in the following terms:

- A. That the consultation feedback on W heatsheaf Walk public realm improvement proposals provided at Appendix 2 to the report be noted.

- B. That the Committee agree with the content of the report in relation to the potential removal of the pagoda and planters at W heatsheaf Walk, however it be noted that the Portfolio Holder for Planning would consider this item further with Cabinet colleagues at their informal meeting being held on Friday 26 June 2020, taking into account the close result of the vote taken on the 'comment' above (not agreed), prior to a decision being taken by the Director of Place and Community.

A vote was taken on the Motion and at the request of a Member, was recorded as follows:

FOR: Councillors R Cooper, S Evans, M Mills, M Nixon, G Owen and D West (SIX)

AGAINST: Councillors I Ashcroft, A Owens, A Sutton, D Westley and D Whittington (FIVE)

- RESOLVED:**
- A. That the consultation feedback on W heatsheaf Walk public realm improvement proposals provided at Appendix 2 to the report be noted.

 - B. That the Committee agree with the content of the report in relation to the potential removal of the pagoda and planters at W heatsheaf Walk, however it be noted that the Portfolio Holder for Planning would consider this item further with Cabinet colleagues at their informal meeting being held on Friday 26 June 2020, taking into account the close result of the vote taken on the 'comment' above (not agreed) and the Motion, prior to a decision being taken by the Director of Place and Community.

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Chairman