

## **Corporate Scrutiny and Governance Board**

### **Recommendations from the meeting held on 15 March 2016**

#### **Council Cabinet Agenda – 16 March 2016**

##### **Item 9 2016/17 Planned Property Maintenance Work Programme**

Members considered a report of the Cabinet Member for Communities and City Centre Regeneration to approve the Property Improvement capital programme of works for 2016/17 and 2017/18 and amend the corporate capital programme 2016/17 – 2018/19 to incorporate the inclusion of schemes that will cross two financial years.

Members queried funding for Parks refurbishment and were informed that some funding is required for the tarmacking of a surface at Markeaton Park. Members questioned whether this was funding for a new surface, or for maintenance of an existing surface. Members also questioned what was included within proposed security measures at the Assembly Rooms Car Park, and what is included in the Leisure Strategy funds for 16/17 and 17/18. Further detail in response to these queries could not be provided at the meeting.

The Board also requested an update report on the Property Rationalisation Programme be added to the future scrutiny work programme/

#### **The Board resolved to recommended that Council Cabinet:**

- 1) requests further detail be provided on the following schemes for further consideration prior to making a decision on the approval of these schemes for inclusion in the Capital Programme:**
  - a. Funding in relation to a tarmacked surface at Markeaton Park;**
  - b. Security measures at the Assembly Rooms Car Park; and**
  - c. Elements of the Leisure Strategy which are proposed to be funded through the capital programme for both 16/17 and 17/18.**
- 2) requests that the urgency of works scheduled to replace the high level glazing to the domed room of the Market Hall on the grounds of health and safety is reassessed to consider whether these works can be carried out in conjunction with any future refurbishment of the Market Hall to maximise cost efficiencies.**

##### **Item 10 Transforming Building Control across Derbyshire**

No recommendations to Council Cabinet were made by the Board on this item but requested a future report on the progress of this be added to the future scrutiny work programme.

##### **Item 11 Schools Capital Programme**

The Board considered a report of the Cabinet Member for Education and Skills to approve the Schools Capital Programme priority schemes for 2016/17 approve, in principle, schemes identified in the report.

The Board queried issues and expressed concerns around the implications on an increasing number of academies in the city and the impact on the Schools Capital Programme and availability and allocation of school places in future years.

The Board voted on a recommendation to Council Cabinet expressing concerns on the increasing academisation of schools within the city which was carried 4 votes to 2. Councillors Poulter and Webb requested that their votes against the recommendation be recorded in the minutes.

**The Board recommends that Council Cabinet considers the Board's concerns raised on the forced academisation of schools and local authorities to plan for school places in the future and that this policy will remove the local democracy of scrutiny of school provision.**

#### **Item 12 Innovation Hub Facility Management**

The Board received a report of the Cabinet Member for Communities and City Centre Regeneration to approve the management and operation of the iHub by the Connect Derby team, overseen by the iHub Board, subject to DCLG approval.

Members of the Board expressed concern over the recommendation to approve the creation of a Council revenue budget of up to £131,000 at a time when the Council is making significant budget cuts. The Board was also concerned about the level of risk associated with taking on sole responsibility of the operation of the building.

**The Board resolved to recommend to Council Cabinet that an early review on the operation of the Innovation Hub, including detail on the running costs, occupancy levels and business rates is carried out and reported to a meeting of the Corporate Scrutiny and Governance Board in around 12 months time.**

#### **Item 13 Closure of Moorways Swimming Pool**

The Board considered a report of the Cabinet Member for Communities and City Centre Regeneration to approve the closure of Moorways Swimming Pool to the general public on 31 March 2016.

Members queried the pool time which would remain for public use following closure of the pool and were informed that a new balanced programme would be in operation. It was reported that this would give a similar proportion of time for the use of facilities to public use, however, the programme would inevitably be a smaller one and would therefore mean less available time for use of the facilities for all users, including schools and clubs.

The Board expressed concerns over the provision of school swimming lessons and queried whether other providers with pool facilities in the city had been approached to deliver services such as school swimming lessons. Members were informed that this is a

priority and that the Council is working with Lonsdale, Woodlands and Gayton schools to try and accommodate these.

Discussions were held around the costs of keeping the pool open and the possibilities of gaining funding from other organisations to keep the pool open, but were informed that no funders had come forward to make this possible.

**The Board resolved to recommend that Council Cabinet tries where possible to deliver sufficient swimming provision for all school swimming lessons.**

**Item 14    Housing Revenue Account Business Plan**

No recommendations to Council Cabinet were made by the Board on this item.

**Item 15    Quarter 3 Revenue Budget Monitoring 2015/16**

No recommendations to Council Cabinet were made by the Board on this item.

**Item 16    Contract and Financial Procedure Matters**

No recommendations to Council Cabinet were made by the Board on this item.