

**THE OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY COMMITTEE****17 October 2016****Minute Extract****317. RESPONSE TO COUNCILLOR BURNS NOTICE OF MOTION FROM COUNCIL 13 APRIL 2016**

(Report CAB2849(MP) refers)

The Assistant Director (Policy and Planning) introduced the Report and drew Members' attention to the various processes already in place at the Council that included, in addition to the Cabinet (Major Projects) Committee, monthly internal programme Management Groups and other performance management processes. As well as helping to ensure that major projects remained on track, they looked to when the Council may be required to commission additional professional expertise, i.e. when it been identified that a particular aspect of a project was outside the existing skill-set or capacity of officers.

Councillor Burns addressed the Committee with regard to the response to her Notice of Motion. Councillor Burns pointed out that when she originally raised her Notice of Motion on 13 April, the Cabinet (Major Projects) Committee had only met once with no other meeting scheduled. There were now more regular timetabled meetings and also that the Council's Risk Register now showed associated risk from it being over ambitious with its projects etc. greatly lowered. However, there was still a need, in her view, for there to be a cross party committee of councillors to monitor and to ensure the success of the Council's major projects.

The Interim Managing Director reminded Members that it was appropriate for the Cabinet to be able to move forward on those projects that it had proposed, with the support of the majority of the Council where necessary. He pointed out the issues that the Independent Review of Silver Hill report had identified with cross-party working and the need for effective scrutiny. It was important for officers to be able to progress projects in the knowledge that Cabinet and a majority of Members supported them.

During discussion, it was considered that existing structures in the Council already allowed for what Councillor Burns was looking to achieve from the Notice of Motion. A Member suggested that an Informal Scrutiny Group could look specifically at how specific projects were 'run' and there was ability for The Overview and Scrutiny Committee to establish a formal and focussed Sub-Committee to act as a 'sounding board' on major project progression. It was agreed that the Committee give further consideration as to whether to establish such a body at its next meeting.

**RECOMMENDED:**

**THAT REPORT CAB2849(MP) BE NOTED AND NO FURTHER ACTION BE TAKEN AS A RESULT OF THE MOTION OTHER THAN THOSE ACTIONS ALREADY BEING PROGRESSED AS SET OUT IN THE REPORT.**

**RESOLVED:**

That the Committee give further consideration at its meeting on 12 December 2016 as to whether to establish a formal and focussed Sub-Committee to act as a 'sounding board' on major project progression.