

## **Committee: Sustainable Communities Scrutiny Panel**

**Date: 2 September 2015**

Wards: All Wards

## **Subject: Adult Education Commissioning Update**

Lead officer: Simon Williams, Director of Community and Housing

Lead member: Councillor Martin Whelton, Cabinet Member for Education

Contact Officer: Gareth Young / Karin Lane, Community and Housing Business Partner

**Reason for urgency:** The Chair has approved this report in order to enable the Panel to undertake pre-decision scrutiny and to make recommendations for Cabinet consideration.

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### **Recommendations:**

- A. That the Panel consider the Adult Education Commissioning Update report (attached at Appendix 1) which provides an update of progress made so far in moving to a commissioning model for adult education and provides details of a soft market testing exercise which has been undertaken to give the council a better sense of the market available to provide these services.
- B. That the Sustainable Communities Scrutiny Panel undertakes pre decision scrutiny of the adult education commissioning update and makes any comments / recommendations to Cabinet for consideration at their meeting on 14 September 2015.

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## **1. PURPOSE OF REPORT AND EXECUTIVE SUMMARY**

- 1.1 To present the Adult Education Commissioning Update to enable the Sustainable Communities Scrutiny Panel to undertake pre decision scrutiny ahead of Cabinet consideration, of the report attached at Appendix 1, at their meeting on 14 September 2015.

## **2. DETAILS**

- 2.1 The Sustainable Communities Scrutiny Panel agreed to maintain an overview of the developments within the Merton Adult Education Service as part of its 2015/16 work programme, and in particular, to undertake pre-decision scrutiny of any proposals regarding changes to/development of the adult education service.
- 2.2 Subsequent to the Cabinet decision on the 16 February 2015 to move to a commissioning model for adult education, officers have been working to implement that decision. The attached Cabinet report (Appendix 1) provides an update of progress made so far in moving to a commissioning model for adult education and provides details of a soft market testing exercise which has been undertaken to give the council a better sense of the market available to provide these services.
- 2.3 The attached report asks Cabinet to:

- note the progress made so far in moving to a commissioning model for adult education and the recent Skills Funding Agency announcement of further in year budget cuts;
- agree to the procurement exercise commencing as outlined in the report;
- agree that the Whatley Avenue site is not made available as part of the procurement process for the newly commissioned adult education service; and
- agree to the Integrated Property Team (IPT) looking at alternative uses for the site to feed into a full appraisal.

### **3. CONSULTATION UNDERTAKEN OR PROPOSED**

3.1 None for the purposes of this covering report.

### **4. TIMETABLE**

4.1 Cabinet will consider the Adult Education Commissioning Update and any reference from the Sustainable Communities Scrutiny Panel at its meeting on 14 September 2015.

### **5. FINANCIAL, RESOURCE AND PROPERTY IMPLICATIONS**

5.1 None for the purposes of this covering report.

### **7. LEGAL AND STATUTORY IMPLICATIONS**

7.1 None for the purposes of this covering report.

### **8. HUMAN RIGHTS, EQUALITIES AND COMMUNITY COHESION IMPLICATIONS**

8.1 None for the purposes of this covering report.

### **9. CRIME AND DISORDER IMPLICATIONS**

9.1 None for the purposes of this covering report.

### **10. RISK MANAGEMENT AND HEALTH AND SAFETY IMPLICATIONS**

10.1 None for the purposes of this covering report.

### **11. APPENDICES – THE FOLLOWING DOCUMENTS ARE TO BE PUBLISHED WITH THIS REPORT AND FORM PART OF THE REPORT**

11.1 Appendix 1 – Cabinet Report: Adult Education Commissioning Update

### **12. BACKGROUND PAPERS**

12.1 Appendix 1 – Cabinet Report: Adult Education Commissioning Update(14 September 2015)