

**Committee:** Cabinet

**Date:** 14 September 2015

**Agenda item:**

**Wards:** All

**Subject:** **Reference from Sustainable Communities Scrutiny Panel – Adult Education Commissioning Update**

Lead officer: Rebecca Redman, Scrutiny Officer

Lead member: Councillor Abigail Jones, Chair of Sustainable Communities Overview & Scrutiny Panel

Forward Plan reference number:

**Contact officer:** Rebecca Redman, Scrutiny Officer; 4035;  
Rebecca.redman@Merton.gov.uk

---

## **Recommendations:**

That Cabinet consider the following recommendations made by the Sustainable Communities O&S Panel, at their meeting on 2<sup>nd</sup> September 2015, further to considering the Adult Education Commissioning Update:

- a) That Cabinet consider providing more detail (at paragraph 2.13 in the report) to explain that expressions of interest from providers in the Whatley Avenue site require further consideration, particularly regarding the scale of providers and curriculum offer, along with the costs of managing the site.
- b) That Cabinet consider all options including maintaining the Whatley Avenue site.
- c) That Cabinet ensure that the user group be appropriately consulted during the commissioning process.

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

- 1.1 To present to Cabinet the recommendations of the Sustainable Communities O&S Panel further to undertaking pre decision scrutiny of the Adult Education Commissioning Update.

## **2. DETAILS**

- 2.1 At its meeting on 2<sup>nd</sup> September 2015, the Sustainable Communities Overview and Scrutiny Panel considered the Adult Education Commissioning Update.
- 2.2 The Sustainable Communities Overview and Scrutiny Panel received a report providing an update on 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. The report also detailed recommendations for Cabinet consideration regarding the commencement of the procurement exercise, that the Whatley Avenue site no longer be included in the procurement process, and that the Integrated Property Team look at alternative uses for the site.

2.3 Members noted in the report that soft market testing findings demonstrated an interest in the Whatley Avenue site, at a commercial rate, from 60% of providers. However, none reported that the venue was an indispensable element of their tender. Members expressed their concerns regarding the recommendation made to remove Whatley Avenue from the procurement process for the newly commissioned adult education service.

### **3. FINDINGS AND RECOMMENDATIONS OF THE SUSTAINABLE COMMUNITIES OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY PANEL**

3.1 Members wished to make the following recommendations for Cabinet consideration regarding the next stages of procurement for sites and providers for the adult education service:

- a) That Cabinet consider providing more detail (at paragraph 2.13 in the report) to explain that expressions of interest from providers in the Whatley Avenue site require further consideration, particularly regarding the scale of providers and curriculum offer along with the costs of managing the site.
- b) That Cabinet consider all options including maintaining the Whatley Avenue site.
- c) That Cabinet ensure that the user group be appropriately consulted during the commissioning process.

### **4 ALTERNATIVE OPTIONS**

4.1 Cabinet is required under the terms of the Constitution to receive, consider and respond to references from overview and scrutiny.

### **5. CONSULTATION UNDERTAKEN OR PROPOSED**

5.1 None for the purposes of this report.

### **6. TIMETABLE**

6.1 None for the purposes of this report.

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

7.1 None for the purposes of this report.

### **8. LEGAL AND STATUTORY IMPLICATIONS**

8.1 None for the purposes of this report.

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

9.1 None for the purposes of this report.

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

10.1 None for the purposes of this report.

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

11.1 None for the purposes of this report.

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

12.1 None for the purposes of this report.

**13. BACKGROUND PAPERS**

13.1 Minutes of the meeting of the Sustainable Communities Overview and Scrutiny Panel held on 2<sup>nd</sup> September 2015

Report to the Sustainable Communities Overview and Scrutiny Panel: Adult Education Commissioning Update, presented at the 2<sup>nd</sup> September 2015 meeting.

This page is intentionally left blank