

Report of the Assistant Director, Governance and ICT

Called-in Item: The Council’s Housing for Older People Programme

Summary

1. This report sets out the reasons for the call-in of the decisions made by the Cabinet on 3 March 2015 in relation to an update on the Council’s existing Housing for Older People Programme and approval given to pursue an alternative approach to the provision of accommodation with care for older people, subject to agreement of a detailed business case.

This cover report sets out the powers and role of the Corporate and Scrutiny Management Committee in relation to dealing with the call-in.

Background

2. An extract from the Decision Sheet issued after the Cabinet meeting is attached as Annex A to this report. This sets out the decision taken by the Cabinet on the called-in item. The original report to the Cabinet meeting on the called-in item is attached as Annex B to this report.
3. Cabinet’s decision has been called in, firstly, by Councillors Aspden, Runciman and Waller for review by the Corporate and Scrutiny Management Committee (CSMC) (Calling-In), in accordance with the constitutional requirements for call-in. The following are the reasons given for the call-in:

The report from Cabinet should include:

- A full assessment of the reasons for the failure of the EPH project, the decision-making timeline, and a detailed analysis of the costs incurred.

- A comprehensive explanation for why the Lowfield Care Village proposal has been abandoned.
- A commitment to investigate and publish a report on the governance and management of the overall project, including the suggestion that finances could be “fudged”.
- A commitment to carry out a full consultation with local residents on the future of the Lowfields site (including the playing fields).
- Following this, a commitment to present to members a range of options (with business cases) for the future of the site including an assessment of whether a different provider could deliver a Care Village at Lowfields.

The decision has then subsequently also been called in by Councillors Doughty, Douglas and Wiseman for review by the Corporate and Scrutiny Management Committee (CSMC) (Calling-In), in accordance with the constitutional requirements for call-in. The following are the reasons given for the call-in:

- More information is needed regarding the business case for the plan, including projections regarding the long-term economic viability of the proposal;
- Because the previous plans collapsed due to poor governance, poor financial planning and minimal project management arrangements CYC needs to properly understand what went wrong regarding the previous model and what is needed for the new plan to succeed before committing to further borrowing. As the Chief Executive intends to conduct a full review of the lack of governance on the last proposal it is sensible to wait until this has been reported before a final commitment to a new plan is undertaken;
- Clarification is needed regarding the sites selected for the new plan and whether these sites represent the best solution in terms of both achieving best value for residents and best use of the proposed sites.

Consultation

4. In accordance with the requirements of the Constitution, the calling-in Members have been invited to attend and/or speak at the Call-In meeting, as appropriate.

Options

5. The following options are available to CSMC (Calling-In) Members in relation to dealing with this call-in, in accordance with the constitutional and legal requirements under the Local Government Act 2000:
 - a. To decide that there are no grounds to make specific recommendations to the Cabinet in respect of the report. If this option is chosen, the original decision taken on the item by the Cabinet on 3 March 2015 will be confirmed and will take effect from the date of the CSMC (Calling-In) meeting; or
 - b. To make specific recommendations to the Cabinet on the report, in light of the reasons given for the call-in. If this option is chosen, the matter will be reconsidered by Cabinet at a meeting of Cabinet (Calling-In) to be held on 24 March 2015.

Analysis

6. Members need to consider the reasons for call-in and the report to the Cabinet and form a view on whether there is a basis to make specific recommendations to the Cabinet in respect of the report.

Council Plan

7. There are no direct implications for this call-in in relation to the delivery of the Council Plan and its priorities for 2011-15.

Implications

8. There are no known Financial, HR, Legal, Property, Equalities, or Crime and Disorder implications in relation to the following in terms of dealing with the specific matter before Members; namely, to determine and handle the call-in.

Risk Management

9. There are no risk management implications associated with the call in of this matter.

Recommendations:

10. Members are asked to consider all the reasons for calling in this decision and decide whether they wish to confirm the decisions made by the Cabinet or refer the matter back for reconsideration and make specific recommendations on the report to Cabinet.

Reason: To enable the called-in matter to be dealt with efficiently and in accordance with the requirements of the Council's Constitution.

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**Report
Approved**



Date 6 March 2015

Specialist Implications Officer(s) None

Wards Affected:

All



For further information please contact the author of the report

Annexes

Annex A – Extract from the Decision Sheet produced following the Cabinet meeting on the called-in item.

Annex B – Report of the Director of Adult Social Care to Cabinet, 3 March 2015.

Background Papers

None