
Tang Hall Area Ad-Hoc Scrutiny Sub-Committee

27 November 2006

Report of the Head of Civic, Democratic and Legal Services

New Scrutiny Review of use of Council owned land at Tang Hall

Summary

1. This report summarises the issues around the new scrutiny review of the Council-owned land in the Tang Hall area and asks members to agree their programme of work.

Background

2. The topic registration form was submitted by Cllrs Kind, Looker and Potter in December 2003 (see Annex A). It had the objective of making the best use of council owned land around Tang Hall school including allotments, playing field, family centre site and the former garage on 5th Avenue. The proposers wanted to involve local people in a scrutiny review to enable them to influence decisions about their neighbourhood. This would hopefully lead to improved facilities and also enhance open spaces for leisure activities.
3. The topic was put on hold at the December 2003 meeting of Scrutiny Management Committee (SMC) as the Executive had commissioned a feasibility study relating to development of this area and Members wished to avoid any duplication of work. It was reported that the Assistant Director (Property Services) was leading this project and currently building up a development team, including a project manager. He had indicated that the feasibility study would not be carried out for a long time. It was resolved that the Assistant Director (Property Services) and the project manager (if appointed) be invited to a future meeting of SMC to discuss the issues further.
4. At the SMC meeting in March 2004, the Head of Property Services informed the Committee of the intention to project manage the development and use Tang Hall as a pilot Area

Asset Management Plan. He reported that he would be consulting with all the Directors regarding their aspirations for service provision and development in the area. It was suggested that scrutiny could be involved with this process, particularly in terms of consulting with the local community to identify their aspirations for the area and to ensure that these were real, robust, affordable and prioritised. Members also emphasised the need for any scrutiny to complement, rather than duplicate, work done elsewhere.

5. Further details of how the pilot Area Asset Management Plan would be achieved were discussed with SMC members in June 2004 (see Annex B)
6. SMC members were updated on the progress of the pilot AAMP and potential developments at Tang Hall in April 2005 (see Annex C)
7. In December 2005 the Asset Manager again updated members progress on producing a pilot Area Asset Management Plan for Tang Hall, in particular the completion of the first Service Asset Management Plan for Library Services (see annex D)
8. A further update was received in March 2006 (see Annex E). Members felt that the Tang Hall Asset Management Plan should be considered as a topic for progression, in the new municipal year, by an Ad Hoc Scrutiny Panel to look at the approach, timetable and resources available for the Plan. It was requested that the Executive Member Resources and the Assistant Director (Head of Property Services) attend the next meeting of the Committee to discuss the next steps and timetable for the Tang Hall Asset Management Plan, and that the proposing members submit a new topic registration form which included the Tang Hall Area Asset Management Plan. Unfortunately, because of changes to the constitution and various resource issues these matters have not been dealt with yet.
9. At the SMC meeting of 25 September 2006 members resolved to form an Ad-hoc Sub-Committee to examine the topic of Council owned land in the Tang Hall area. A draft remit for this topic is enclosed at Annex E.

Consultation

10. The proposing members were consulted on the production of the remit for this review. Officers from Property Services are expected to attend this meeting to update members on progress with the Area Asset Management Plan and inform the process of drawing up a programme of work for this review.

Options

11. Members may decide on their workplan for this review, this may include co-opting non-voting members of the sub-committee who would be from the local community. They will need to consult with officers preparing the Tang Hall Area Asset Management Plan in order to ensure that their recommendations can feed into the process and ensure that they do not duplicate work that is being carried out elsewhere.

Corporate Priorities

12. This could be considered to be relevant to corporate priority 3 – improve the actual and perceived condition and appearance of the city's streets, housing estates and publicly accessible spaces.

Implications

13. There are no known Financial, HR, Equalities, Legal, Crime and Disorder, IT or other implications at this stage.

Risk Management

14. In compliance with the Councils risk management strategy. There are no risks associated with the recommendations of this report.

Recommendations

15. Members are asked to discuss the programme of work which they wish to undertake in order to carry out this scrutiny review and agree an appropriate workplan.

Reason: In order to meet their responsibilities as an Ad-Hoc Scrutiny Sub-Committee and carry out the responsibilities agreed by SMC.

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Report Approved

Date 17/11/06

Specialist Implications Officer(s) None

Wards Affected:

All

For further information please contact the author of the report

Annexes

Annex A – Scrutiny Topic Registration Form

Annex B – Report to SMC of 28 June 2004

Annex C - Report to SMC of 25 April 2005

Annex D - Report to SMC of 20 December 2005

Annex E – Report to SMC of 27 March 2006

Annex F –Remit for Scrutiny topic

Background Papers

None