
Scrutiny Management Committee

15 September 2008

Report of the Democratic Services Manager

Final Report of the Barbican Ad-hoc Scrutiny Committee – Sale of the Barbican

Summary

1. This report presents the final report from the Barbican Ad-hoc Scrutiny Committee detailing their review of the sale of the Barbican.

Background

2. In coming to a decision to carry out a review of this topic, the Scrutiny Management Team recognised certain key objectives and the following remit was agreed:

Remit

‘To investigate the arrangements surrounding the sale of the Barbican site, with the purpose of learning some key lessons for the future, in the event of developments of a similar nature or scope being proposed.

- To understand why the contract in relation to the sale of the Barbican site was not signed, sealed and delivered until after May 2003.
- To understand the public consultation process which took place and the resulting decisions.
- To assess whether decisions taken in relation to the sale resulted in a loss of capital to the Council.

To understand the changes in land values with a view to establishing whether best value was actually achieved in this case.

Consultation

3. As part of their review, the Barbican Ad-hoc Scrutiny Committee carried out a number of consultation sessions, as detailed in their final report attached at Annex A.

Options

4. Having considered the findings contained within the final report attached, Members may choose to support all, some or none of the recommendations shown in paragraph 7 below, and provide their comments, prior to the report being considered by the Executive.

Analysis

5. In regard to the aims and objectives of the review, the final report attached, analyses all of the information gathered and the arising issues.

Summary of Recommendations Arising From the Review

6. The final report of the Barbican Ad-hoc Scrutiny Committee recommends that the Executive should:
 - Commission an officer report which sets out a corporate approach for the Council when dealing with pressure groups
 - Ensure all future projects have a robust system of risk management which is regularly reviewed and updated throughout the period of each project.

Reason: To ensure that any future projects are managed effectively and take into account lessons learnt from this review.

Corporate Direction & Priorities

7. It was recognised that this review would support the following direction statements as set out in the Council's Corporate Strategy:
 - We will listen to communities and ensure that people have a greater say in deciding local priorities
 - Our ambition is to be clear about what we will do to meet the needs of our communities, and then deliver the best quality services that we can afford
8. The review also provided an opportunity for the Council to consider the procedures followed and the decisions taken at the time of the sale of the Barbican, in order to identify ways of improving what we do, in line with our Corporate Values.

Implications

9. There are no known legal, Financial, Equalities, HR, or other implications associated with the recommendation below or the recommendations within the final report at Annex A.

Risk Management

10. There are no known risks associated with the recommendation within this cover report. The risks associated with the recommendations within the final report are detailed therein.

Recommendations

11. Members are asked to note the contents of the attached final report and provide comments on the findings and recommendations as shown in paragraph 7 above.

Reason: To inform the Executive's consideration of the final report.

Contact Details

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Report Approved **Date** 1 August 2008

Wards Affected:

All



For further information please contact the author of the report

Background Papers: None

Annexes

Annex A – Sale of the Barbican Scrutiny Review - Final Report dated 16 July 2008