

Overview, Scrutiny & Policy Development Committee

6 February 2017

Present: Councillor S Graham (Chair)
Councillors A Austin, B Burdis, S Cox, N Craven,
S Day, P Earley, Janet Hunter, A McMullen, J O'Shea,
M Rankin and J Wallace

OV51/02/17 Apologies

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors J Allan and T Mulvenna
Mrs M Ord – Parent Governor Representative,

OV52/02/17 Substitute Members

There were no substitute Members

OV53/02/17 Declarations of Interest

There were no declarations of interest reported

OV53/02/17 Minutes

Resolved that minute of the meeting held on 10 January 2017 be confirmed;

OV54/02/17 Office Accommodation Review - Update

The Committee received a report that provided an update to the rationalisation of the operational estate of the Authority since the last update in September 2016. The Committee was reminded that the agile Working and Office Accommodation project was a commitment by its partner Capita to deliver property savings for the Authority.

Members requested that information be provided to all ongoing costs and rates for all buildings listed in the update to allow them to have a clear understanding of the financial position.

Camden House

The Committee was reminded that at the September 2016 meeting it was informed that there was renewed commercial interest in subletting of this building.

It was questioned and confirmed that the Authority was able to sublet the building.

Meadow Well Centre

The sale for this building to the Cedar Trust was complete.

The Cedars

The building was vacated in December 2016, with options of its future use to be considered by the Strategic Property Group in February 2017.

Howdon Community Centre

The Committee heard that a team from Family Gateway were accommodated in this building, initially for a one year period whilst the Authority explored compatibilities and work approaches for a range of clients in Howdon.

Wallsend Customer First Centre

The Committee was reminded that it had requested a report in relation to the position of the Wallsend Customer First Centre and this was programmed to be received in the spring.

Shiremoor Centre

It heard that there had been a swapping of facilities with a phased relocation of the Moorbridge School to the Shiremoor Centre with the North Tyneside Disability Forum (NTDF) moving into the existing Moorbridge building. It was the expectation that all moves would be completed during the Easter holiday period. It was also stated that the Shiremoor Centre would continue to be available to community groups in the evenings and holidays.

A Member asked, if not already in place that written agreements be drafted to ensure the arrangements to use the building would continue and this would provide assurance to community groups.

Quadrant Campus

It heard that agreement had been made to have a phased subletting of the Quadrant West building and arrangements were in place for the first floor to be occupied by the end of January 2017. The benefit of the sublet would reduce the accommodation cost to the Authority.

Work had been progressing to ensure to staff were accommodated in the Quadrant East building, in other localities and to increase the use of agile working methods. It was commented that the Wallsend Customer First Centre vacant accommodation could be used utilised.

Irving House

The Authority's commitment to the lease for this building was terminated in December 2016.

Depot Solution

The Committee heard that the Authority was now committed to a new build depot solution and the report detailed the current indicative milestones for the project.

Community Hub Model

The Community Hub Model offers a number of services via a reduced number of outlets. It heard that a project group had been set up to define what the customer offer would be in the hubs.

The report stated that a workshop session with staff across the service areas had taken place that resulted in receipt of positive feedback.

The Committee requested this feedback information relating to the staff workshop sessions. It was stated that a Managers update report was produced and would be circulated to Members.

In addition officers offered further information that would be circulated to the committee in relation to work that had been undertaken through the accommodation review project, these being;

- Strategic Property Group bi-annual report and
- Information to the actions taken for the number of buildings within the Hub & Spoke Model

Agreed that (1) the Office Accommodation Review – Update be noted; and (2) the requested information throughout the meeting be circulated to Members of the Committee.

OV55/02/17 Attention Deficit Hyperactivity Disorder in North Tyneside – Cabinets Response

The Committee received the response report from Cabinet to the recommendations submitted by the sub group of the Overview, Scrutiny & Policy Development Committee in relation to its study into Attention Deficit Hyperactivity Disorder in North Tyneside.

Appended to the report was the action to be taken and timescale for completion of each of the recommendations.

Agreed that the recommendation response from Cabinet in relation to the work of the Overview, Scrutiny & Policy Development Committee its study into the Attention Deficit Hyperactivity Disorder in North Tyneside be noted;

OV56/02/17 Bereavement Services Sub-group report – Cabinets Response

The Committee received the response report from Cabinet to the recommendations submitted by the sub group of the Overview, Scrutiny & Policy Development Committee in relation to its study into the Bereavement Service.

Appended to the report was the action to be taken and timescale for completion of each of the recommendations.

A Member questioned Cabinets response to recommendation 8 which related to assessment of potential risk to officers and the provision of personal alarms.

It sought assurance that assessments had taken place immediately and asked that the Committee be informed to the outcome of the assessment and to what safeguards if any had been implemented.

Agreed that (1) the recommendation response from Cabinet in relation to the work of the Overview, Scrutiny & Policy Development Committee its study into the Bereavement Service be noted; and
(2) that the Committee be updated to the outcome of the officer risk assessment as detailed at recommendation 8 of the action plan.

DRAFT