

28 October 2014

Audit and Scrutiny Committee

Scrutiny Work Programme 2014/15 – Supplementary Urgent Report

Report of: *Jo-Anne Ireland, Acting Chief Executive*

Wards Affected: *None*

This report is: *Public*

1. Executive Summary

- 1.1 This report outlines the requirement for an additional item to be added to the Work Programme for 2014/15.
- 1.2 The report outlines the requirements for an urgent review in order to consensually address the perceived requirement for an Extraordinary Council meeting.

2. Recommendation(s)

- 2.1 To prioritise a review on the William Hunter Way project as outlined in Section 4 of this report.**
- 2.2 That a Task & Finish Group comprising two members of the Administration and two members of the Opposition Group be formed to lead the review.**
- 2.3 That a report on the findings of the review be presented to the Audit & Scrutiny Committee on 26 November 2014.**
- 2.4 That a report be made from Audit & Scrutiny to the Council Meeting on 10 December 2014 including any recommendations arising from the review.**

3 Introduction and Background

- 3.4 At an Extraordinary Council Meeting held on 7 April 2014, Members were reminded that the Council had terminated the Development Agreement for the William Hunter Way site with Stockland on 6 February 2014 and options for the site needed to be considered.
- 3.5 Council resolved at that meeting to re-market the site for development using a new refreshed development brief, including a consultation exercise.

Issue, Options and Analysis of Options

- 4.1 Concerns have been raised by the Opposition Group regarding the procurement process and the information provided to the public on the work undertaken to date. In order to address the areas of concern, a Task & Finish Group is recommended to investigate the following:
- Provision of all documentation and communication between consultants; Leadership and Management (L & M) and the Council or any Member of the Administration. Where this information is commercially sensitive, it is to be published under the usual “pink” process to all Members. Otherwise, the details will be published in full on the Council website, available for public scrutiny.
 - Provision of all advice from L & M, both formal and informal, which has been given to the Council, any Member of the Administration or to the William Hunter Way Working Group, in regards to the William Hunter Way project or any other scheme or potential scheme, whether given for a fee or pro bono. Where this information is commercially sensitive, it is to be published under the usual “pink” process to all Members. Otherwise, the details will be published in full on the Council website, available for public scrutiny.
- 4.2 It is recommended that this review is given priority on the Work Programme, with a report being presented to Audit & Scrutiny Committee on 26 November 2014 with the findings.
- 4.3 It is further recommended that a report be made from Audit & Scrutiny to Council on 10 December 2014 including any recommendations arising from the review. The Mayor has indicated her agreement to include the Audit & Scrutiny report as an item on the agenda for Ordinary Council on 10 December 2014 for debate my Members.

4.4 This proposal is intended to negate the requirement for an Extraordinary Council meeting to deal with the concerns raised by the Opposition Group, but will also enable the review to commence without delay.

5. Reasons for Recommendation

5.1 To address specific concerns raised by the Opposition Group with regards to the William Hunter Way project.

6. Implications

Financial Implications

Name & Title: Jo-Anne Ireland, Acting Chief Executive

Tel & Email 01277 312712 / jo-anne.ireland@brentwood.gov.uk

6.1 There are no direct financial implications arising from this report.

Legal Implications

Name & Title: David Lawson, Deputy Monitoring Officer

Tel & Email 01277 312860 / david.lawson@brentwood.gov.uk

6.2 There are no direct legal implications arising from this report.

7. Appendices to this report

None.

Report Author Contact Details:

Name: Jo-Anne Ireland, Acting Chief Executive

Telephone: 01277 312712

E-mail: jo-anne.ireland@brentwood.gov.uk