

CABINET

DATE OF MEETING: 2 JANUARY 2020

TITLE OF REPORT: GARDEN COMMUNITY GOVERNANCE

Report of: Joint Chief Executive

Cabinet Member: Councillor Graham Cockarill, Place

I PURPOSE OF REPORT

- 1.1 This report provides an update on the governance arrangements for the Garden Community. This report was considered by the Overview and Scrutiny Committee at its meeting on 17 December 2019.

2 OFFICER RECOMMENDATION

- 2.1 That Cabinet approve the Governance approach as set out in Appendix I.

3 BACKGROUND

- 3.1 Members will recall that in September, Overview and Scrutiny Committee considered a report regarding the Garden Community. This report contained a series of recommendations, including consideration of a draft governance structure and Overview and Scrutiny were, subject to any comments, asked to recommend the document to Cabinet.
- 3.2 In consideration of the governance structure, Overview and Scrutiny resolved to
“Accepted [the Garden Community Governance] with modifications: Councillor Farmer to work with JCX to reword the Governance Approach to be amended with references to the: ‘evaluation phase’ rather than delivery. The Terms of Reference will also be reviewed.
- 3.3 The Joint Chief Executive and Cllr Farmer met and worked on the governance, and the amended version formed an appendix to the published Cabinet papers to October Cabinet.
- 3.4 The report was deferred and later considered at November Cabinet. At that meeting Cabinet resolved
“The proposed Governance approach be approved in principle, but a small working group, comprising of the three 3 Group Leaders and Portfolio Holder for Place, be tasked to look again at the proposed governance structure and the work streams over the next 12 months, and be asked to report back to Cabinet, at the latest by February, with any appropriate refinements to the proposed Governance structure or project plan.”

- 3.5 As part of a very wide debate around partnership of forums and board and details of representatives and responsibilities, Overview and Scrutiny Committee endorsed the governance approach at their meeting on 17 December 2019.

4 CONSIDERATION

- 4.1 The governance arrangements need to provide everyone interested in the Garden Community with a clear understanding of how they can take part in the project and how their views will shape the broader picture. To do this we need to establish a clear and accountable structure of how information will be gathered and will flow through the project and how decisions will be made.
- 4.2 In accordance with the resolution of Cabinet in November, the Group Leaders and Portfolio Holder for Place, met to consider and amend the Garden Community Governance arrangements on the 26th November 2019. Further refinements have occurred through online collaboration between all respective parties.
- 4.3 Appendix I sets out the Garden Community governance as now agreed by each of the Political Group Leaders and the Portfolio Holder for Place. It recognises the key strategic roles to be undertaken during this first phase of exploration of the opportunity for a Garden Community.
- 4.4 It has also provided some greater level of clarity around key stakeholders, providing examples, which will help support the creation of the Garden Community Opportunity Board as well as Stakeholder and Land Owners Forums.
- 4.5 It is key to note that the governance arrangement as set out, may need to develop and evolve as the project progresses through its various stages, to involve different people, groups and organisations and as the groups develop, make changes to terms of reference

5 EQUALITY IMPACT ASSESSMENT

No equality issues are identified for this report at this stage. An early scoping of stakeholders will need to consider the engagement of representatives from protected groups that the project has the potential to impact upon.

6 ACTION

Subject to Cabinet approval, next steps will be to set up the Garden Community Opportunity Board meeting, with respective key stakeholders

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APPENDICES

Appendix I Shapley Heath Garden Community