

CABINET

DATE OF MEETING: 2 MARCH 2023

TITLE OF REPORT: SHAPLEY HEATH GARDEN COMMUNITY PROJECT – INTERNAL MEMBER REVIEW AND REFLECTION REPORT

Report of: Leader of the Council

PURPOSE OF REPORT

1. To receive the independent Shapley Heath Garden Community Project - Internal member review and reflection report and to provide a response to Audit Committee on lessons learnt.

RECOMMENDATION

2. Cabinet confirms to Audit Committee that all the key learning points and recommendations identified in the independent Shapley Heath Garden Community Project - Internal member review and reflection report prepared by Emanuel J Gatt will be followed and implemented with immediate effect.
3. Cabinet will ensure that all recommendations from Staffing Committee to Audit Committee are implemented with immediate effect.

BACKGROUND

4. Following the tiao audit report, reviewing the Shapley Heath Garden Community Project and the Audit Committee's request for a member reflection and review, the cabinet agreed to commission via the LGA an independent facilitator to host a 'round table' review.
5. The 'round table' reviews took place on 12th of January and was facilitated by Emanuel Gatt. Two separate sessions were held. The review gathered evidence from cabinet members and those members involved on the Opportunity Board. The members who participated were Cllr David Neighbour, Cllr James Radley, Cllr Stuart Bailey, Cllr Tony Clarke, Cllr Anne Crampton, Cllr Spencer Farmer, Cllr Alan Oliver, and Cllr Dermot Smith.

PURPOSE OF THE INTERNAL MEMBER REVIEW

6. The purpose of the review was to enable members to identify both the positives and any shortcomings in the application of the governance arrangements associated with the Shapley Health Garden Community Project that can be applied to all future projects.
7. The review and reflection exercise focused on what lessons might be learnt as to why the governance arrangements appeared not to have succeeded in this instance and to make sure that similar situations do not arise in the future.

REVIEW OUTCOME

8. Key learning points and recommendations that emerge from the member review. In summary they are:
 - a) Cabinet roles and elected members responsibilities to protect and assure that the council operates effectively within its governance structures must not be altered by any future use of emergency powers.

- b) Informal and formal cabinet meetings should be structured so that portfolio holders keep cabinet members apprised of key projects, early alerts escalated and properly addressed through the council's governance procedures.
- c) Clear lines of accountability, separating the duties of cabinet/portfolio holder, accountable officer, and project manager for each significant project.
- d) Portfolio holder, accountable officer and project manager must meet regularly so that early alerts can be flagged. This is an essential element of the governance arrangements. Trust is important, with lead members having 'open book access' to all the information and be empowered to constructive challenge and ask 'awkward' questions of officers.
- e) All projects to operate within the existing governance arrangements including a more positive and proactive role for overview and scrutiny, using it to review outcomes, policy, and compliance to governance arrangements.
- f) Expand the role of the Project Board so that cabinet members/portfolio members with major project responsibilities can be plugged in.

FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

- 9. No financial implications arise from the recommendations recommended in this report

RISK MANAGEMENT

- 10. The full implementation of of the key learning points and recommendations as set out in paragraph 7 above will greatly enhance risk management and governance oversight over major projects.

EQUALITIES

- 11. There are no equalities implications associated with this report.

CLIMATE CHANGE IMPLICATIONS

- 12. There are no climate change implications associated with this report.

ACTION

- 13. Cabinet and officers will, with immediate effect, bring all the actions as set out this report into policy and practice.

Contact Details: David Neighbour

Appendices

Appendix A independent Shapley Heath Garden Community Project -
Internal member review and reflection report prepared by Emanuel J Gatt.