

**Response from the meeting of Cabinet on the O&S Committee's Comments –
5 July 2023**

Item 5 – Milverton Homes Limited Governance Audit

Scrutiny Comment:

The Overview & Scrutiny Committee recommended to Cabinet that officers should review the effectiveness on governance arrangements with the Monitoring Officer chairing Board meetings and also being the Shareholder Representative. It asked for the review to examine whether alternative options should be pursued. It had a proposal for this which would be moved at Cabinet.

The Committee noted the comments from the Portfolio Holder for Housing which clarified that Recommendation 3 in the report was a recommendation to Council, and the following amendment to recommendation 4:

"Approves the Terms of Reference for the Shareholder Representative Board at the Appendix 1 **and asks Council to annex it to the Constitution**".

The Committee also noted comments that the Terms of Reference should be less specific and refer instead to any relevant risks or issues linked with any Joint Venture project referred to the Board by the Cabinet.

The above amendments would be circulated via an addendum prior to the Cabinet meeting.

Cabinet Response:

The recommendations in the report along with the recommendation from the Overview & Scrutiny Committee as revised by the addendum were approved.

Item 9 – Use of Delegated Powers for Urgent Decisions

Scrutiny Comment:

This report was not called-in for scrutiny because the report referred to decisions that had already been made. However, it was felt that the process and timing in the use of these powers should be examined; it was noted that these decisions referred to in the report had been made during the pre-election period and some had involved sizeable sums of money.

The Committee therefore recommended to Cabinet that as part of the review of scrutiny arrangements that had already been agreed, a review should be carried out on the use of delegated powers and whether these was a way to provide more scrutiny of these decisions.

Cabinet Response:

The recommendations in the report were approved, along with the recommendation from the Overview & Scrutiny Committee:

"as part of the review of scrutiny arrangements that had already been agreed, a review should be carried out on the use of delegated powers and whether there is a way to provide more scrutiny of these decisions."

Item 12 – Customer Service Relocations Options

Scrutiny Comment:

The Overview & Scrutiny Committee expressed concerns about the increase in costs from those that were initially stated. The Committee requested that costs were kept closely under control for the duration of the project and reduced if possible and provided value for money. The Committee requested that further effort should be made in respect of the plans for the Pump Rooms Shop to ensure that the service provided to residents continued.

Cabinet Response:

The recommendations in the report were approved.