

**Response from the meeting of the Executive on the
O&S Committee's Comments – 10 November 2020**

Item Number: 4 – Sherbourne Resource Park.

Requested by: Councillor Milton.

Reason Considered:

The MRF is another aspect of the waste contract.

To look at the governance arrangements for the proposals and whether there is any impact on residents, (noting that Sherbourne Park is not in the District).

Scrutiny Comment:

The Overview and Scrutiny Committee considered this report together with Item 10 – Waste Contract Renewal because they both dealt with waste management. It noted and accepted the contents of both reports.

The Committee felt that it would be important to bring residents on-board with the changes to the waste and recycling services. Effective communication and providing help to residents to manage the impact of the changes would be necessary and this would help link into the Council's wider Climate Emergency ambitions.

The Committee did raise concerns over the potential problem that could be posed by fly-tipping and asked that an effective strategy to counter this risk was put in place. Flexibility in approach was key.

The Committee expressed its thanks to the Portfolio Holder, Councillor Grainger and Julie Lewis, the Head of Neighbourhood Services.

Executive Response:

The recommendations in the report were approved.

Item Number: 6 – Creative Quarter – Spencer Yard Proposals

Requested by: The Green Group.

Reason Considered:

Criteria for call-in: "The amount of spend and the strategic priority of the Council or key project".

The more direct and broader question/issue in line with these is: "Should we be promoting a system which privatises the profits and turns the losses over to the Council? Should we really enter into agreements where WDC seems to lose control down the line?"

We would like further clarifications on the questions asked already:

- A. does “The aspiration of the wider Creative Quarter” mean that this development will just be offices, but the hope is that later phases may include artists’ studios?
- B. Will these properties be included in the Council’s assets when determining our carbon footprint?
- C. Can the public be told the length of the lease?

However, our primary concern is that this deal burdens the council with key risks without having access to the majority of profits that might accrue. For example, the council will be obliged to develop the event space, and then the developer can choose whether or not to requisition this space if they so choose (within limits). It is noticeable that the developer is not taking on this risk, suggesting that they don’t think it will be profitable.

What is the wisdom of signing such a deal when:

1. Key points such as pricing arrangements have not been agreed
2. Receiving the market value (for office developments) has not been agreed

There is a huge risk that demand for office space will plummet?

Scrutiny Comment:

The Overview & Scrutiny Committee considered the report and accepted its contents.

Executive Response:

The recommendations in the report, and along with the following additional recommendation from the Finance and Audit Scrutiny Committee, were approved:

“that authority be delegated to the Deputy Chief Executive (BH) in consultation with the Chair of the Finance & Audit Scrutiny Committee, the Leader of the Council and the Portfolio Holder for Finance and Business, to further investigate and look in detail at the proposed Heads of Terms included in Confidential Appendix 2. Given the Council's unanimous support of the Climate Emergency Action Plan, Members ask that detailed terms on the environmental standards of the proposals be considered, and whether it is sensible to include environmental conditions into the lease, subject to not adversely affecting the viability of the scheme. Members feel that the efficacy of those conditions is something the Programme Advisory Board should look at and monitor”.

Item Number: 10 – Waste Contract Renewal

Requested by: Councillor Milton.

Reason Considered:

Because of the significant change in service delivery for residents.

Scrutiny Comment:

Please see above for the comments made by the Overview & Scrutiny Committee which discussed Items 4 and 10 together at its meeting.

Executive Response:

The recommendations in the report were approved.