



**SCRUTINY COMMITTEE**

**14:05 – 15:10**

**7 February 2018**

Present: Councillors Wright (chair), Bogelein, Bradford, Bremner, Button (substitute for Brociek-Coulton) Grahame, Ryan, Schmierer (substitute for Haynes) Sands (M) (substitute for Malik) and Thomas (Va)

Apologies: Councillors Brociek-Coulton, Coleshill, Haynes, Jones (B), Malik and Manning

**1. Declarations of interest**

There were no declarations of interest.

**2. Call in – key decision notices**

The chair introduced the call in meeting. He reminded members that the purpose of the call in was that the decision notice published to councillors regarding the purchase of an asset had no supporting exempt documentation, making it largely meaningless and asked the director of business services to respond.

The director of business services said that there was a constitutional requirement to publish a notice of delegated key decision. The notice that was published to councillors was also a public notice which restricted the amount of information that could be included due to commercial sensitivities. He highlighted that only two members had come back to him to request further information on the asset after the notice was circulated.

Members were reminded that the report to cabinet on the asset and investment strategy had been considered first by the scrutiny committee and a recommendation that a quorum of cabinet members be included in the delegated decision had been accepted by cabinet.

The director of business services, along with the business transformation and change officer and the democratic team leader had reviewed the process of publishing such information and had already implemented a more comprehensive method of circulating the information to members. An exempt pack of information would be circulated to all members along with the notice of key decisions.

He said that he hoped this revised process gave the scrutiny committee comfort that the decisions were being made in accordance with the cabinet process and that they were robust.

Discussion ensued around the exempt pack of information provided to councillors in relation to the asset. The director of business services along with the director of regeneration and development and the chief finance officer answered member's questions.

**RESOLVED** to ask:

- (1) the director of business services to send an exempt pack of information relating to assets purchased to all members once a notice of key decision had been published,
- (2) the chief finance officer to simplify the information around the payback period within the exempt pack of information sent to all members; and
- (3) the democratic and elections manager to include an all members briefing on the treasury management strategy in the councillor development programme for the next civic year.

CHAIR

