



**REPORT of  
THE OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY COMMITTEE WORKING GROUP**

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**to  
OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY COMMITTEE  
24 SEPTEMBER 2024**

**REFERENCE FROM CORPORATE LEADERSHIP TEAM – SPLASH PARK,  
PROMENADE PARK, MALDON**

**1. PURPOSE OF THE REPORT**

- 1.1 The purpose of this report is to receive and consider a recommendation from the Overview and Scrutiny Committee Working Group (the Working Group) on a matter referred to the Committee by the Corporate Leadership Team (CLT).

**2. RECOMMENDATION**

That the Committee receives and considers the referral from CLT in the light of the information provided to the Working Group as set out in this report.

**3. SUMMARY OF KEY ISSUES**

- 3.1 At a recent meeting of the Strategy and Resources Committee (S&R) consideration was given to operational issues relating to the opening of the Splash Park facility earlier in the year. Following this, CLT decided to refer an issue arising to the Overview and Scrutiny Committee. In line with usual practice, the Working Group has carried out an initial assessment.
- 3.2 The issue the subject of the referral is the apparent misinterpretation by Officers of the decision of S&R on 1 February 2024 reflecting the wish of Members to see the Splash Park facility ready and open from 1 May 2024 rather than at the bank holiday/school half term. It was evident that the contractors were instructed to commission the facility for the latter. This was a genuine misunderstanding for which Officers have expressed regret.
- 3.3 CLT has looked into ways of avoiding a situation like this occurring again in the future. It will be recalled that consideration of this matter by S&R in February was held in private session and therefore Minutes will have been prepared with greater brevity, with recorded decisions still needing to be clear and explicit.
- 3.4 Although the public streaming system is taken down at the point a meeting goes into private session, the intention now is that such sessions will continue to be recorded and maintained as an internal record for future reference purposes. These can be made available to Members to review should an approach be made to Officers. Minutes of closed sessions will be produced with sufficient detail to provide context for and to support the recorded decision, and Officers participating in meetings will be asked to check and provide input as necessary to draft minutes.

## 4. CONCLUSION

- 4.1 The Working Group is reassured by the response from Officers to this referral from CLT which is now forwarded to the Committee to consider on that basis.

## 5. IMPACT ON PRIORITIES AS SET OUT IN THE CORPORATE PLAN 2023 - 2027

### 5.1 Provide good quality services.

- 5.1.1 Thorough scrutiny processes support improved performance and efficiency which in turn will contribute to the quality of services provided, and functions undertaken by the Council.

## 6. IMPLICATIONS

- (i) **Impact on Customers** – None directly, but individual scrutiny reviews will enable the impact on customers to be assessed.
- (ii) **Impact on Equalities** – Equalities are considered as part of the reporting on review work undertaken by Officers.
- (iii) **Impact on Risk (including fraud implications)** – Scrutiny reviews enable potential Corporate Risks to the organisation and their mitigation to be identified.
- (iv) **Impact on Resources (financial)** – Scrutiny reviews offer the potential for an assessment of financial impact to the organisation.
- (v) **Impact on Resources (human)** – Scrutiny reviews offer the potential for an assessment of any resource impact to the organisation.

### Background Papers:

None

### Enquiries to:

Stuart Jennings, Corporate Governance Project Officer.