



**REPORT of  
DIRECTOR OF RESOURCES**

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**to  
FINANCE AND CORPORATE SERVICES COMMITTEE  
26 SEPTEMBER 2017**

**ASSET MANAGEMENT WORKING GROUP**

**1. PURPOSE OF THE REPORT**

- 1.1 The purpose of this report is for Members to consider the recreation of the Asset Management Working Group.

**2. RECOMMENDATION**

To the Council:

The Committee is asked to consider whether to recommend to the Council to reform the Asset Management Working Group with immediate effect. In the event that the Group is reformed, the Council's Constitution will need to be amended as detailed in paragraph 3.6 below.

**3. SUMMARY OF KEY ISSUES**

- 3.1 The Asset Management Working Group (AMWG) (the Group) was formed in February 2006, following a recommendation by the Finance and Corporate Services Committee, to form a Member / Officer Working Group to consider issues relating to asset management planning and to ensure that the Council's assets are appropriate and fit for purpose and that both capital and revenue expenditure is used efficiently in the delivery of services. A copy of the previous terms of reference of the Group is shown in **APPENDIX 1**.
- 3.2 On 23 June 2015, the Finance and Corporate Services Committee disbanded the Group as it was perceived to be of little value to the asset management of the Council. In the period since this delivery levels of the capital programme have been very low and on one project there were significant issues in procurement, delivery and overspend.
- 3.3 Whilst the Group would not have necessarily prevented the issues discussed above, more regular updates and monitoring would have been provided to the Group if they were meeting and this exercise in itself may have identified issues earlier and allowed an element of challenge to officers carrying out the procurement and overseeing the delivery of the work.

- 3.4 The Council has identified income generation using our existing assets as a key element in reducing the medium term financial deficit. In addition to this there are significant works that are required to our assets over the short to medium term, such as the replacement of windows in the Council Offices.
- 3.5 Whilst the group does not have delegated decision making, it has historically provided a robust level of challenge and insight. This was seen to be key in understanding the level of political appetite for certain projects in advance of investing significant resource into viability work.
- 3.6 Previously meetings of the Group were held during the day. To allow the Council to maximise attendance it is suggested that should the Committee approve the recommendation that meetings are held in the evening.

#### **4. CONCLUSION**

- 4.1 In order to increase challenge and provide increased insight of Member views on Asset Management, it is recommended that the Asset Management Working Group is re-introduced. The group should be constituted as per the previous terms of reference and meet on a quarterly basis during the evening.

#### **5. IMPACT ON CORPORATE GOALS**

- 5.1 Good asset management contributes towards our Corporate Goal “Delivering good quality, cost effective and valuable services”.

#### **6. IMPLICATIONS**

- (i) **Impact on Customers** – None.
- (ii) **Impact on Equalities** – None.
- (iii) **Impact on Risk** – None.
- (iv) **Impact on resources (financial)** – None.
- (v) **Impact on Resources (human)** – None.
- (vi) **Impact on the Environment** – None.

Background Papers: None.

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