

CORRESPONDENCE UPDATE

Background

1. Following most Committee meetings, the Chair writes a letter to the relevant Cabinet Member or officer, summing up the Committee's comments and recommendations regarding the issues considered. At the Committee meeting on 21 November 2023, Members received a report detailing the correspondence sent and received up to that meeting.

2. Correspondence has been sent since that meeting and the current position is set out below:
 - i. **Response Received** – from Councillor Thomas, Leader, to the Chair, Councillor Wong's public letter, following pre-decision scrutiny of the report to Cabinet – Indoor Arena Funding Strategy, considered at Committee on 21 November 2023.
 - ii. **Response Received** – from Councillor Thomas, Leader, to the Chair, Councillor Wong's confidential letter, following pre-decision scrutiny of the report to Cabinet – Indoor Arena Funding Strategy, considered at Committee on 21 November 2023.
 - iii. **Response Awaited** – from Councillor Thomas, Leader, to the Chair, Councillor Wong's public letter, following policy review scrutiny of city centre management arrangements, city centre recovery, and City Deal and Western Gateway partnership working, considered at Committee on 19 September 2023.

3. There is one response awaited. Copies of the Chair's letters and any public responses received can be found on the Council's website page for the relevant Committee meeting, with a hyperlink provided at the top of the page,

entitled '*correspondence following the committee meeting*'. Confidential letters have been circulated to Committee Members.

Way Forward

4. During the meeting, Members are able to discuss the correspondence update

Legal Implications

5. The Scrutiny Committee is empowered to enquire, consider, review and recommend but not to make policy decisions. As the recommendations in this report are to consider and review matters there are no direct legal implications. However, legal implications may arise if and when the matters under review are implemented with or without any modifications. Any report with recommendations for decision that goes to Cabinet/Council will set out any legal implications arising from those recommendations. All decisions taken by or on behalf of the Council must (a) be within the legal powers of the Council; (b) comply with any procedural requirement imposed by law; (c) be within the powers of the body or person exercising powers on behalf of the Council; (d) be undertaken in accordance with the procedural requirements imposed by the Council e.g. Scrutiny Procedure Rules; (e) be fully and properly informed; (f) be properly motivated; (g) be taken having regard to the Council's fiduciary duty to its taxpayers; and (h) be reasonable and proper in all the circumstances.

Financial Implications

6. The Scrutiny Committee is empowered to enquire, consider, review and recommend but not to make policy decisions. As the recommendations in this report are to consider and review matters there are no direct financial implications at this stage in relation to any of the work programme. However, financial implications may arise if and when the matters under review are implemented with or without any modifications. Any report with recommendations for decision that goes to Cabinet/Council will set out any financial implications arising from those recommendations.

RECOMMENDATION

The Committee is recommended to reflect on the update on correspondence.

Leanne Weston
Interim Deputy Monitoring Officer
6 December 2023