

MINUTES OF THE CABINET OVERVIEW WORKING GROUP HELD ON

13 October 2015

7.30 - 9.30 pm

PRESENT

Overview Working Group Members

Councillor Ian Beckett (Chair)
Councillor Maggie Hulcoop (Vice-Chair)
Councillor Simon Carter
Councillor Waida Forman
Councillor John Strachan

Other Councillors

Councillor Emma Toal

Officers

Jane Greer, Head of Community Wellbeing
Will Hales, Estates Surveyor
Joe McGill, Properties, Facilities and Projects Manager
Maureen Pearman, Community, Leisure and Cultural Services Manager
Scott Ramsey, Playhouse General Manager
Lisa Purse, Corporate and Governance Support Officer

15. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies were received from Councillors David Carter, Danny Purton and Clive Souter.

16. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

None.

17. MINUTES

RESOLVED that the minutes of the meeting held on 10 September 2015 be agreed as a correct record.

18. MATTERS ARISING

None.

19. FINANCIAL FUTURE OF THE PLAYHOUSE (PRESENTATION)

Hazel Clover, Clover Theatre Management and John Riddell, Theatre Projects Consultants gave a presentation on the Harlow Playhouse Futures Evaluation which summarised the report contained within the

agenda pack. The presentation is amended to these minutes. Hazel explained that the Council's discretionary funding is due to end in 2019 and that the report provides advice to the Council on available options.

The Group agreed that subject to the Council's constitution and the agreement of the Head of Governance, a Task and Finish Group would be established to examine options and make recommendations for the long term financial sustainability of the Playhouse Theatre. The Task and Finish Group would report back to the Cabinet Overview Working Group, who will then make recommendations to Cabinet on whether the current subsidy to the Playhouse Theatre will be required and if so, for how long and at what level of funding. This will take into account whether significant alternative funding arrangements exist and should be pursued.

The financial future of the Playhouse is on the Group's Work Plan as the main agenda item at the 14 January 2016 meeting.

20. **COMMUNITY BASED ASSET REVIEW**

Joe McGill, Property and Facilities Manager gave a presentation which detailed Harlow's key asset developments and community asset future investments. The Group also received a condition survey of the Council's community assets. The presentation and the condition survey are appended to these minutes. The Group discussed various threats and opportunities faced by the community groups that use the Council's community assets.

RESOLVED that representatives from the following community groups are invited to a future meeting of the Cabinet Overview Working Group:

- (i) Sports Community
- (ii) Religious Community
- (iii) Youth Community

21. **WORK PLAN 2015/16**

The Overview Working Group received a report that outlined its Work Plan for the current year.

RESOLVED that:

- (i) The 2015/16 Work Plan is noted.
- (ii) Either an additional meeting is arranged in February 2016 to consider Process for Child Protection or it is added to the 16 March 2016 meeting of this Group.
- (iii) Future of the Town Centre is added to the 14 January 2016 meeting of this Group.

22. **MATTERS OF URGENT BUSINESS**

None.

CHAIRMAN OF THE OVERVIEW
WORKING GROUP