

**MINUTES OF THE CABINET OVERVIEW WORKING GROUP
HELD ON**

11 February 2016

7.30 - 8.28 pm

PRESENT

Overview Working Group Members

Councillor Ian Beckett (Chair)
Councillor Maggie Hulcoop (Vice-Chair)
Councillor David Carter
Councillor Simon Carter
Councillor Clive Souter
Councillor John Strachan

Officers

Jane Greer, Head of Community Wellbeing
Scott Ramsey, Playhouse General Manager
Christine Selby, Youth and Citizenship Manager
Lisa Purse, Corporate and Governance Support Officer

31. **APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE**

None.

32. **DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

None.

33. **MINUTES**

RESOLVED that the minutes of the meeting held on 26 November 2016 be agreed as a correct record.

34. **MATTERS ARISING**

None.

35. **REVIEW OF SUSTAINABILITY OF HARLOW PLAYHOUSE THEATRE**

The Chairman introduced the Review of Sustainability of Harlow Playhouse report and gave an overview of the work carried out by the Playhouse Working Group.

The Overview Working Group and Officers discussed the number and types of Operators that had been consulted during the preparation of the

report. It was explained that one of the benefits of the building is its many subsidiary spaces and that an interested Operator may introduce food and hospitality.

Scott Ramsey, Playhouse Manager, shared feedback from other Theatre Managers that had experience of a process of inviting expressions of interest from potential operators.

Thanks were expressed to Scott for his commitment to the Playhouse and to Harlow.

RESOLVED that the Overview Working Group:

- A** notes the progress made by the Playhouse Working Group.
- B** recommends to Cabinet that the current subsidy for the Playhouse of £491,000 per annum is maintained, as indicated until 2018/19.
- C** recommends to Cabinet that the Council seeks expressions of interest and invites potential operators with a view to reduce the ongoing funding required from the Council.
- D** asked Cabinet to note The Overview Working Group's opinion that funding of some scale will almost certainly be required beyond 2018/19, albeit in a potentially diminishing level.
- E** asked Cabinet to note that the viability of any future operating model will be dependent on the three year Capital Plan being implemented.

36. **SAFEGUARDING REPORTING PROCEDURE**

Christine Selby, Youth and Citizenship Manager/Designated Safeguarding Officer, introduced the report which outlined the Council's Child and Vulnerable Adult Safeguarding Policy and procedure for recording and reporting safeguarding concerns in respect of children and vulnerable adults. Christine advised that the policy and procedure is due to be updated in March 2016 to reflect the current Safeguarding Agenda; recent changes to referral pathways in Essex and recent changes to Government legislation.

The Overview Working Group discussed Disclosure and Barring Service (DBS) checks and whether Councillors should have one in their official capacity.

The Overview Working Group expressed that they had been reassured that the Council had taken steps to record and report safeguarding concerns.

RESOLVED that:

- i) the Overview Working Group noted the Council's Child and Vulnerable Adult Safeguarding Policy and Procedure.
- ii) the Council's Child and Vulnerable Adult Safeguarding Policy and Procedure (including flowchart) is updated to consistently include councillors, employees, volunteers, contractors and other workers.
- iii) clarification is sought on whether the Council can legally ask councillors to have a DBS check.
- iv) the provision of Safeguarding e-learning to councillors be considered.

37. **WORK PLAN**

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

RESOLVED that the 2015/16 Work Plan is noted.

38. **MATTERS OF URGENT BUSINESS**

None.

CHAIRMAN OF THE OVERVIEW
WORKING GROUP