

**OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY COMMITTEE
18 JUNE 2024**

PART 1 – PUBLIC DOCUMENT

TITLE OF REPORT:

REPORT OF: Vice Chair of Overview and Scrutiny Committee 2023-2024

EXECUTIVE MEMBER: N/A

COUNCIL PRIORITY: N/A

1. EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

A Call to Account to investigate the Harkness Court Refurbishment was requested by Overview and Scrutiny Committee on 9 March 2023, which then took place with the Service Director – Enterprise and the Building Surveyor on 7 November 2023.

2. RECOMMENDATIONS

That the Committee:

- 2.1. Note the content of the Vice Chair's report, attached as Appendix A, and endorse the finding included within.

3. REASONS FOR RECOMMENDATIONS

- 3.1. To ensure that the Overview and Scrutiny Committee monitor and approve recommendations following Call to Account procedures.

4. ALTERNATIVE OPTIONS CONSIDERED

- 4.1. No other options were considered.

5. CONSULTATION WITH RELEVANT MEMBERS AND EXTERNAL ORGANISATIONS

- 5.1. This is a report required following a Call to Account taking place. No further consultation has taken place with Members.

6. FORWARD PLAN

- 6.1 This report does not contain a recommendation on a key Executive decision and has therefore not been referred to in the Forward Plan.

7. BACKGROUND

- 7.1. The request was made for a Call to Account to take place at the meeting of the Overview and Scrutiny Committee held on [9 March 2023](#), following which Officers were consulted and requested to attend and produce a report to provide their account.
- 7.2. The Call to Account then took place on the [7 November 2023](#), with the Service Director – Enterprise and Building Surveyor in attendance to provide their account.

8. RELEVANT CONSIDERATIONS

- 8.1. That the Vice Chair's report on the Harkness Court Refurbishment be reviewed and the contents noted by the Committee, following the Call to Account which took place on 7 November 2024.

9. LEGAL IMPLICATIONS

- 9.1. Section 6.3.4(b)-(c) within the Council Constitution states that:
 - (a) The Overview and Scrutiny Committee may ask people to attend to give evidence or answer questions about any items on their agenda. Meetings should be conducted in accordance with the following principles:
 - i. That the business be conducted fairly and all members of the Committee be given the opportunity to ask questions of attendees, and to contribute and speak;
 - ii. That those assisting the Committee by giving evidence be treated with respect and courtesy;
 - iii. That any investigation be conducted so as to maximise the efficiency of the investigation and analysis; and
 - iv. That the business be conducted as efficiently as possible.
 - (b) Following any investigation or review, the Committee shall prepare a report, for submission to the Cabinet and/or Council as appropriate and shall make its report and findings public.

10. FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

- 10.1. There are no known financial implications that apply to this report.

11. RISK IMPLICATIONS

- 11.1. Good Risk Management supports and enhances the decision-making process, increasing the likelihood of the Council meeting its objectives and enabling it to respond quickly and effectively to change. When taking decisions, risks and opportunities must be considered.

12. EQUALITIES IMPLICATIONS

- 12.1. In line with the Public Sector Equality Duty, public bodies must, in the exercise of their functions, give due regard to the need to eliminate discrimination, harassment, victimisation, to advance equality of opportunity and foster good relations between those who share a protected characteristic and those who do not.

13. SOCIAL VALUE IMPLICATIONS

- 13.1. The Social Value Act and “go local” requirements do not apply to this report.

14. ENVIRONMENTAL IMPLICATIONS

- 14.1. There are no known Environmental impacts or requirements that apply to this report.

15. HUMAN RESOURCE IMPLICATIONS

- 15.1 There are no known Human Resources implications that apply to this report.

16. APPENDICES

- 16.1 Appendix A – Vice Chair of Overview and Scrutiny 2023-2024 – Call to Account Report on the Harkness Court Refurbishment

17. CONTACT OFFICERS

- 17.1 James Lovegrove, Committee, Member and Scrutiny Manager
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18. BACKGROUND PAPERS

- 18.1 [Request for the Call to Account at the meeting of the Overview and Scrutiny Committee – 9 March 2023 – Minute 203 refers](#)
- 18.2 [Call to Account document provided for the meeting of the Overview and Scrutiny Committee – 7 November 2024](#)