

Cabinet – 23 September 2020

Recommendation from the Extraordinary Overview and Scrutiny Committee of 22 September 2020

Community Asset Policy

1. At its meeting held on 22 September 2020, the Overview and Scrutiny Committee considered the draft Community Asset Policy ahead of its approval by the Cabinet.
2. The Committee scrutinised the Policy, scoring matrix and process flowchart and raised a number of questions which were addressed by officers.
3. Members raised a concern that the points-based system of evaluating applications for leases of assets was weighted towards established organisations with existing funding. The Committee were of the opinion that the Council should encourage and support applications from new, or small local organisations and community groups. These groups may meet the criteria through the benefits they could bring to the local community and the Borough, which were outweighed by their score on the points-based system.
4. The Committee requested that a complete list of the Council's assets to which the Policy relates, be appended to the Policy so that it was clear which buildings and pieces of land were covered by the Policy.

The Committee resolved to recommend to Cabinet:

1. This Committee invites Cabinet to order a reconsideration of the policy taking into account Overview & Scrutiny Members' views and come back with a revised report and score card, to better reflect supporting organisations, including small and young organisations, of value to the community, giving Overview & Scrutiny members 10 days to make submissions.
2. That further work is done to collate a full list of all assets to which this policy relates and that this will be appended to the policy.

Councillor Vivienne Leighton

Chairman of Overview and Scrutiny Committee 23 September 2020