

(i) Telford Town Centre – Civic Offices (Report G)

Recommendation 2.3 – that Cabinet approve that the new Civic Offices are located in Southwater and that they are delivered through the Council retaining freehold title;

Recommendation 2.4 – that Cabinet approve that the Head of Property & Design, in consultation with the Chair of the Project Board, is granted delegated authority to determine the exact location and eventual size and configuration of the Civic Offices within Southwater, within the parameters set out in the report and enter into all contracts to facilitate its delivery in accordance with the Contract Procedure Rules;

(ii) Telford Town Centre (Report H)

Recommendation 2.1 – that Cabinet approve the establishment of a Project Board, Reporting and Governance Structure for the delivery of Southwater Regeneration, and approve that delegated authority is given to the Head of Property and Design to approve the constitution and terms of reference of that Board.

The Procedure to be followed, as set out in Appendix 3 of the agenda, was outlined to the meeting. Councillor Carter stated that, due to a prior engagement, he would have to leave the meeting at 4.45 p.m. and it was agreed that, in order to facilitate this, the process be amended as required.

In accordance with the Protocol Councillor C.F. Smith, as Lead Call-In Member outlined the reasons for the Call-In, namely concerns relating to the lack of clarity and transparency in how recommendation (i) (2.3) was decided upon and the need for clarification of the governance structure in respect of the Project Board referred to in recommendations (i)(2.4) and (ii)2.1. Further concerns were raised by Councillors McClements, Singh Sahota and Overton.

Councillor Carter spoke in favour of the Cabinet recommendations but stated that the information used to decide upon the Southwater location of the new Civic Offices would be made available to the members of the Scrutiny Leadership Board and that he considered it important that the Project Board work alongside the Scrutiny Leadership Board in future.

Following a detailed debate of the issues, during which the Board's attention was drawn to the proposed Governance Structure for the Southwater & Civic Offices Regeneration Project tabled at the meeting, the Chairman asked the Board to vote upon the following proposals, as set out on the Call-In Request Form:

(i) Telford Town Centre – Civic Offices

- (a) That Scrutiny consider the 34 rejected options together with the cost implications to assure Council that locating the Civic Offices in Southwater is the best option;
- (b) That the decision making process for the Civic Offices Project is clarified.

(ii) Telford Town Centre

That the decision making process for the Southwater Square Project is clarified and a Scrutiny Group scrutinises the Project throughout the process.

Following further debate and amendment of the wording of these proposals, it was:

RESOLVED – that, in the light of the Call-In submitted by Councillor C.F. Smith:

Telford Town Centre – Civic Offices

- (i) That Scrutiny consider the ~~34 rejected~~ options identified in the Cabinet report together with the cost implications to assure Council that locating the Civic Offices in Southwater is the best option
- (ii) That Cabinet adopts the proposed governance structure, as tabled at the meeting, or similar, for the Southwater and Civic Offices Regeneration Project as a means of clarifying the decision making structure.

The meeting ended at 5.43 p.m.