

Open

Cabinet

Additional Papers

Recommendations from the Overview & Scrutiny Committee from its meeting on 5th November 2020 for:

Agenda Item 7.2 – Capital Strategy: Review of the Functional Economic Geography

Agenda Item 8.1 – Report following consultation on homeworking

Agenda Item 8.2 – Green Homes Fund – Local Authority Delivery Scheme

Agenda Item 9.1 – Establishment of Museum Trust

To be held remotely
6pm
Tuesday, 10th November 2020



WYRE FOREST DISTRICT COUNCIL

**Cabinet
Tuesday 10th November 2020**

**Recommendations from the Overview and Scrutiny Committee
Thursday 5th November 2020**

Amendment to the Capital Portfolio Fund Acquisition Geography

The Committee considered a report from the Corporate Director: Resources and the Corporate Director: Economic Prosperity & Place which set out the proposed temporary arrangements for the acquisition geography for the Capital Portfolio Fund during the uncertain times brought about by the Coronavirus pandemic.

The Committee discussed the report and thanked the Corporate Director: Resources and the Corporate Director: Economic Prosperity & Place for a very thorough and comprehensive report.

Recommend to Cabinet that:

The proposed temporary limitation of the geography for Capital Portfolio Fund purchases is agreed.

Background papers:

See the report on page 82 of the pdf at this link:

http://www.wyreforest.gov.uk/council/docs/doc56121_20201105_o_and_s_agenda.pdf

WYRE FOREST DISTRICT COUNCIL

**Cabinet
Tuesday 10th November 2020**

**Recommendations from the Overview and Scrutiny Committee
Thursday 5th November 2020**

Response to Consultation on Homeworking

The Committee considered a report from the Corporate Director: Economic Prosperity & Place which set out the responses received to the consultation with employees and unions in respect of homeworking as agreed by Council in July.

The Committee discussed the report and several concerns were raised about the low number of responses and the negativity of the majority of the comments received. Members acknowledged that more homeworking was introduced as a result of Government guidance in relation to the Covid-19 pandemic.

Members were concerned about the mental health issues raised and the majority of the Committee felt there was not a clear mandate to proceed and the process should be halted and revised post April 2021.

Recommend to Cabinet that:

The consultation responses together with the Corporate Leadership Team responses are noted.

When the item is reported to Council at its December meeting, Council should place a halt on proceedings and review after April 2021, and any such fresh proposals should be subject to a further staff consultation.

Background papers:

See the report on page 88 of the pdf at this link:

http://www.wyreforest.gov.uk/council/docs/doc56121_20201105_o_and_s_agenda.pdf

WYRE FOREST DISTRICT COUNCIL

**Cabinet
Tuesday 10th November 2020**

**Recommendations from the Overview and Scrutiny Committee
Thursday 5th November 2020**

Green Homes Grant – Local Authority Delivery Scheme

The Committee considered a report from the Head of Strategic Growth which outlined the process for the Government funded Green Homes Grants to be made available to homeowners where their properties have poor energy efficiency and they have a low household income.

The Committee welcomed the report and acknowledged the eligibility criteria of household income of less than £30k; and suggested that applications for households on the lower part of the income threshold should be prioritised.

Recommend to Cabinet:

- 1.1 to recommend to Council that there is an amendment to the Capital programme by £300k to provide Green Homes Grants (to be recovered by funding from BEIS) noting that the exact level of expenditure will be dependent on the number of eligible applicants and grant funding received.**
- 1.2 That delegation be given to Officers to prepare an income hierarchy formula for the allocation of grants if practicable to do so.**

Background papers:

See the report on page 79 of the pdf at this link:

http://www.wyreforest.gov.uk/council/docs/doc56121_20201105_o_and_s_agenda.pdf

WYRE FOREST DISTRICT COUNCIL

**Cabinet
Tuesday 10th November 2020**

**Recommendations from the Overview and Scrutiny Committee
Thursday 5th November 2020**

Establishment of Independent Museum Trust

The Committee considered a report from the Chief Executive which set out the proposed steps necessary to establish Bewdley Museum as a fully independent trust, no longer part of Wyre Forest District Council. Once fully in place the only relationship would be that the Council would expect to be the principal funding partner.

The Committee fully scrutinised the report which included the main recommendations that will be considered by Cabinet. Members agreed that it was important that consideration be given to exploring a reversion clause to protect the buildings and to ensure the collection remained in Wyre Forest in the event of a failure of the new museum trust, and clarification was sought that the rights of depositors would not be affected.

Recommend to Cabinet that:

The Overview and Scrutiny support the recommendations to Cabinet set out in paragraph 2.1 of the report, with the suggested minor amendments to 2.1.2 and 2.1.3 (c).

Background papers:

See the report on page 114 of the pdf at this link:

http://www.wyreforest.gov.uk/council/docs/doc56121_20201105_o_and_s_agenda.pdf