

CABINET

THURSDAY, 25TH APRIL, 2019

At 7.30 pm

in the

GREY ROOM - YORK HOUSE, WINDSOR

SUPPLEMENTARY AGENDA

PART I

<u>ITEM</u>	<u>SUBJECT</u>	<u>PAGE NO</u>
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Cabinet 25/04/2019 –
Comments from O&S Panels

Cabinet Report

Nicholson's Shopping Centre

The report was circulated electronically to the Corporate Services O&S Panel. No comments were received from Panel Members.

Cllr Jones, made the following comments:

As Leader of the opposition I was lead to believe that the report would be a basic Heads of Terms this is not the case.

Not only does it specifically mention sums of money, it requests virement of a total of £470,000 over the next three years to "work with Tikehau Capital and Areli on the Nicholson's Shopping Centre redevelopment and a new car park."

There is no agreed policy that has been through any process I am aware of for this council to enter into such an agreement and my understanding is that the virement of funds from one budget line to another needs to be agreed by Council, the body who agreed the budget in the first place.

On the date of the Cabinet meeting we are just 7 days prior to the election and the paper itself states "Extensive further work and due diligence is needed to take this work forward as part of the development of the vision and plan for the area." and "The future timetable will be developed as part of further discussions with Tikehau Capital and Areli." I agree that these statements are true, but it also proves that this matter cannot be seen as an Urgent Decision.

The paper also says "8.1 The report will be considered by Corporate Overview and Scrutiny Committee." I would have hoped that a matter of this importance, which such a high impact on Maidenhead Town Centre and one that would significantly affect the already agreed parking strategy for Maidenhead and potentially affect the commercial values of other properties in the Town Centre, would have been discussed at a number of Scrutiny Panels to cover the various aspects of the opportunity in confidential session but politically balanced fora, not simply emailed for comment!

Cllr Dudley's publicised 'offer' to send it to Council is not appropriate as this paper, and further updates on negotiations, should be appearing at Scrutiny regularly so that members can fully understand the 'direction of travel', scrutinise the evidence base for the decision and comment on options provided. This should not be delegated to two people to 'negotiate' and 'agree' the contract without any scrutiny process being followed.

My comment would be that the recommendation should be amended to 'negotiate' only and agreement to be taken through the scrutiny process.

Borough Wide Heritage Strategy and Action Plan

Planning and Housing O&S Panel - Resolved: that the Planning and Housing Overview and Scrutiny Panel endorsed the recommendations within the Cabinet report.

Councillors Beer and Walters wished for their dissent to be placed on record. They wished for the following comments to be made to Cabinet:

Councillor Walters felt that there was not enough importance placed upon this strategy for it to effectively protect and preserve any existing heritage assets.

Councillor Beer stated that he had serious concerns with the Heritage Strategy not being a planning policy document and felt that it could destroy any legal authority that could be exploited by aggressive developers and planning inspectors at appeals and he stated that this could lead to a reduced adopted policy document with an unenforceable wish list.

Councillor Beer also highlighted that he felt that there was a fundamental contradiction in the status of the strategy in the opening item 2.1 of the report which referred to the BLPSV para 11.2.1 advising that that the strategy would not be a planning policy document but that there were frequent references to this document becoming an SPD later in the report.

Cllr Beer also felt that the use of "Urban Room" in item 8.1 was an inappropriate one for promoting heritage, he recommended "Heritage Room".

Financial Update

The report was circulated electronically to the Corporate Services O&S Panel. No comments were received.