



OVERVIEW & SCRUTINY VIEWS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

TO CABINET 7 SEPTEMBER 2016

Report Title	RECOMMENDATIONS OF THE OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY COMMITTEE – PRE-DECISION SCRUTINY – MUSEUM TRUST
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Agenda Status: PUBLIC

1. Purpose

- 1.1 To present to Cabinet for consideration, the comments and recommendations of the Overview and Scrutiny Committee on the findings of the pre-decision scrutiny activity – Pre-Decision Scrutiny – Museum Trust.
- 1.2 Members of Cabinet have been issued with a copy of the full report. All Overview and Scrutiny review reports are published on the Overview and Scrutiny page on the Council's Webpage and a copy of this report can be located: www.northampton.gov.uk/scrutiny - Previous Scrutiny Reviews.

2. Recommendations

- 2.1 The Overview and Scrutiny Committee recommends to Cabinet that:
 - 2.1.1 Cabinet considers the findings of the Scrutiny Panel, attached at Appendix A.
 - 2.1.2 Cabinet notes that the Overview and Scrutiny Committee is satisfied that further investigation into the establishment of a Museum Trust including a full options appraisal will ensure the best outcome for the future of the Museum Service and Cultural Quarter.
 - 2.1.3 Cabinet notes that the Overview and Scrutiny Committee is satisfied that the commissioning of detailed planning including a full business plan and a 5 – 10 year financial plan should be undertaken to establish a Museum Trust.

- 2.1.4 Cabinet notes that the Overview and Scrutiny Committee supports the hybrid model of a Museum Trust. (A hybrid is where responsibility is devolved to a trust but assets are retained by the Council.)
- 2.1.5 Officers present three monthly updates on the process to establish a Museum Trust to the Overview and Scrutiny Committee.

3. Background and Issues

- 3.1 The purpose of the pre-decision scrutiny activity was to undertake pre-decision Scrutiny - Scrutiny of the establishment of the Museum Trust to ensure the best outcome for the future of the Museum Service and Cultural Quarter.
- 3.2 The purpose of this report is to notify Cabinet on the outcome of the work undertaken by the Scrutiny Panel that undertook the above pre-decision work in response to the decision by Cabinet to consider Trust Status for Northampton's Museums.
- 3.3 The Scrutiny Panel established that the following needed to be investigated and linked to the realisation of the Council's corporate priorities:

Background data, including:

- Presentation to set the scene
- Relevant Legislation
- Relevant data

- 3.4 A series of meetings were held that provided key information to the Scrutiny Panel.
- 3.5 The purpose of the meetings was to:
- Help non-Executives understand the process of establishing a Museum Trust and the legal framework around the establishment of a Museum Trust.
 - Enable non-Executives to meaningfully challenge the rigour and robustness of the proposed process

3.6 The Scrutiny Panel established that the following needed to be investigated and linked to the realisation of the Council's corporate priorities:

Background data, including:

- Presentation to set the scene
- Relevant Legislation
- Relevant data

3.7 The findings from this pre-decision scrutiny activity are detailed at Appendix A and are presented in the form of a comprehensive set of questions and answers.

4. Options

4.1 Cabinet will need to consider the possible options as part of its response to the recommendations.

5. Implications (including financial implications)

5.1 Policy

5.1.1 The work of Overview and Scrutiny plays a major part in the development of the Council's policy framework through its work programme.

5.1.2 The report and its recommendations have policy implications in relation to a Museum Trust. Cabinet's response will need to consider these issues in detail.

5.2 Resources and Risk

5.2.1 Cabinet will need to consider the resourcing issues for the recommendations made.

5.3 Legal

5.3.1 Legal issues will need to be considered as part of Cabinet's response to the recommendations.

5.4 Equality

5.4.1 Equality issues will need to be considered as part of Cabinet's response to the recommendations.

5.5 Consultees (Internal and External)

5.5.1 The Committee received evidence from a variety of sources as detailed in paragraph 3.5 of this report.

6. Background Papers

- Overview and Scrutiny Committee report – Pre-decision Scrutiny – Museum Trust
- Minutes of the meeting of the Overview and Scrutiny Committee – 15 August 2016

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