

## OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY BOARD

1<sup>st</sup> JULY 2008

### OUTCOME OF CALL-IN: REVIEW OF SOUTHLANDS CENTRE COMMUNAL WORKSHOPS

#### PURPOSE OF THE REPORT

- 1 To report the outcome of the special meeting of Overview and Scrutiny Board (OSB) held on 17<sup>th</sup> June 2008 which reviewed the decision made at an Individual Executive Meeting by the Executive Member for Economic Regeneration and Culture on 20<sup>th</sup> May 2008, in accordance with the authority's Call-In procedure.

#### BACKGROUND INFORMATION

- 2 As members will recall, the Call-In procedure was recently instigated, following a decision undertaken by the Executive Member for Economic Regeneration and Culture. The decision was based upon a report titled "Review of Southlands Centre Communal Workshops.". In doing so the Executive Member ordered that
  - 1) That the closure of the Southlands Centre communal workshops which would lead to the financial efficiencies indicated be approved.
  - 2) That discussions with UCA and SEIP will continue to bring their proposals forward. Should these plans be viable then the former workshop space could be made available for educational usage; and community usage will be secured if possible. Should these plans not be viable then the former workshop space will be let for business usage.

- 3 Subsequently a special meeting of the OSB was held on 17<sup>th</sup> June 2008 to allow the Board to review the decision taken.

## **OBSERVATIONS**

- 4 Having reviewed the decision, the Board wish to make the following observations on this issue:-
- 5 That the Board recognises that the Executive decision to withdraw the communal workshop facility within the Southlands Centre is to enable better usage of the space and to ensure greater alignment with Economic Development objectives, and to improve financial efficiency. The Board appreciated that while the enterprise centre units and the leisure facilities within Southlands Centre are all meeting KPI targets, the records did not support the view that the communal workshops were well used and consequently not achieving the desired level of income.
- 6 The Board also found In financial terms, greater opportunity and improved financial benefit would be achieved through the closure of the communal workshops and re-letting the space.

## **CONCLUSION**

- 7 The OSB concluded that on this occasion, the Board would not require the Executive Member for Economic Regeneration and Culture to re-consider the decision taken on 20<sup>th</sup> May 2008.

## **RECOMMENDATIONS**

- 8 The Special OSB recommendation to the Executive Member is that the decision referred to in this report is not referred back for reconsideration.

**COUNCILLOR JAN BRUNTON**

**CHAIR OF THE OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY BOARD**

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## **BACKGROUND PAPERS**

The following background papers were used in the preparation of this report: -

- (a) Report of the Senior Scrutiny Officer entitled 'Call-In: Southlands Centre Communal Workshops. to the Special meeting of the Overview and Scrutiny Board of 17<sup>th</sup> June 2008.
- (b) Report of the Executive Director of Regeneration presented to the Executive Member for Economic Regeneration and Culture on 20<sup>th</sup> May 2008.