

WOKING FOOTBALL CLUB AND ASSOCIATED DEVELOPMENTS

[NOTE: DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

In accordance with the Officer Employment Procedure Rules, the Director of Finance, Leigh Clarke, has declared a disclosable personal interest (non-pecuniary) in this item arising from (i) her husband having a small shareholding in Woking Football Club and (ii) being a Council appointed director of Kingfield Community Sports Centre Limited. The interest does not prevent Mrs Clarke from advising on this matter.

In accordance with the Officer Employment Procedure Rules, the Director of Legal and Democratic Services, Peter Bryant, has declared a disclosable personal interest (non-pecuniary) in this item arising from (i) him being a member of the Cards Trust (the supporters' club for Woking Football Club), (ii) providing occasional unpaid assistance to Woking Football Club, e.g. acting as returning officer at the election of directors and (iii) being a Council-appointed director of Kingfield Community Sports Centre Limited. The interest does not prevent Mr Bryant from advising on this matter.]

Executive Summary

The Council, at its meeting on 30 July 2020, considered a report on Woking Football Club and Associated Developments. The report to Council considered the recommendations of the Overview and Scrutiny Committee in respect of the Woking Football Club & Associated Developments Task Group and suggested to Council how the recommendations could be effectively taken forward. The Council, at its meeting on 30 July 2020, agreed recommendations as set out in the report to Council.

This report provides an update on two specific actions, the appointment of an Independent Person and the Publication of the Confidential Report from the Task Group.

Review by Independent Person

Council, at its meeting on 30 July 2020, resolved the following:

- (I) the LGA be requested to nominate a professional person or experienced organisation, independent of the Council, to investigate and review the processes and actions of the Council in respect of the Woking Football Club and Associated Developments and to make appropriate recommendations to the Council arising from its investigations and review.

As nominated by the Local Government Association the Council has appointed a highly qualified lawyer, Gifty Edila, former Corporate Director of Legal, HR and Regulatory Services at the London Borough of Hackney as "Investigator".

The brief is an open one "Investigate and review the processes and actions of the Council in respect of the Woking Football Club and Associated Developments and to make appropriate recommendations to the Council arising from your investigation and review".

All documents related to the Task Group and the Contracts related to the development have been supplied to the Investigator together with the Council's Constitution. The Investigator will determine what further information she requires and the persons she wishes to interview.

Upon completion of the investigation, a report will be submitted to the Council.

Woking Football Club and Associated Developments

Publication of Confidential Papers

On 5 June 2020, a confidential report produced by the Woking Football Club and Associated Developments Task Group was considered by the Overview and Scrutiny Committee. By virtue of paragraph 3 of Part 1 of Schedule 12A of the Local Government Act 1972 the report was classified as Part II and was not published. The need for the Part II item to remain subject to the Part II designation was reviewed by the Monitoring Officer. The outcome of the review is that the report shall be published subject to minimal redaction. The redacted report shall be published on the Council's website with together with the documents previously published in respect of the proposed Woking Football Club development. The redacted report shall be publically available on Friday 13 November 2020. The redacted elements of the report remain under review.

Recommendations

The Executive is requested to:

RESOLVE That

the report be noted.

Reasons for Decision

Reason: To note publicly the action taken.

The Executive has the authority to determine the recommendation(s) set out above.

Background Papers:	None.
Reporting Person:	Ray Morgan, Chief Executive Email: ray.morgan@woking.gov.uk, Extn: 3333
Contact Person:	Ray Morgan, Chief Executive Email: ray.morgan@woking.gov.uk, Extn: 3333
Portfolio Holder:	Councillor Ayesha Azad Email: cllrayesha.azad@woking.gov.uk
Shadow Portfolio Holder:	Councillor Ann-Marie Barker Email: cllrann-marie.barker@woking.gov.uk
Date Published:	13 November 2020