

REPORT TO:	GENERAL PURPOSES AND AUDIT COMMITTEE 3 March 2022
SUBJECT:	Report in the Public Interest – Action Plan
LEAD OFFICER:	Katherine Kerswell, Chief Executive Richard Ennis, Interim Corporate Director of Resources and Section 151 Officer John Jones, Interim Monitoring Officer
CABINET MEMBER:	Councillor Hamida Ali, Leader of the Council
WARDS:	All

1. RECOMMENDATIONS

The Committee is recommended to:

1. Consider and review the Action Plan attached at Appendix 1B;
2. Consider any proposed amendments or feedback that it wishes to make on the action plan; and
3. Submit that feedback in a report to Cabinet at its meeting on 21 March 2022.

2. EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

- 2.1 Following the extraordinary meeting of Council held on 3 February 2022, this report provides an opportunity for Members of the Scrutiny & Overview Committee to review the action plan developed in response to the recommendations made in the recent Report on the Public Interest. Any comments or feedback made by the Committee on the action plan will be reported to the Cabinet at its meeting on 21 March 2022.
- 2.2 Discussion of the findings from the Report in the Public interest is in law reserved to the extraordinary meeting of the Council held on 3 February. At that meeting the Council agreed to accept the recommendations set out in the report. It is not the role of other Council committees, such as Scrutiny and Overview Committee, General Purposes and Audit Committee or Cabinet to conduct its own review of the finding in the Report in the Public. Discussion of this item at the meeting should focus on the whether the action plan will deliver the recommendations accepted by Council on 3 February

3. BACKGROUND

- 3.1 The extraordinary meeting of Council held on 3 February 2022 considered a Report in the Public Interest (attached at Appendix 1A) concerning the refurbishment of the Fairfield Halls and related governance issues by the

Council's external auditors, Grant Thornton. A copy of the report to Council is attached at Appendix 1, including the appendices to that report, namely the Action Plan (labelled as Appendix 1B).

- 3.2 In considering the report, Council agreed the action plan to implement the recommendations made in the report in the public interest.

4. REPORT IN THE PUBLIC INTEREST ACTION PLAN

- 4.1 In agreeing the action plan, Council also agreed that the plan be presented to the next meetings of the General Purposes and Audit Committee and the Scrutiny and Overview Committee. This is to allow the respective committees to consider and review the action plan from their differing constitutional positions.
- 4.2 Following consideration of the action plan, any comments and feedback from the Committee will be reported to the Cabinet meeting scheduled for 21 March 2022. At that meeting, Cabinet will also consider any feedback from the Scrutiny and Overview Committee as well as further detail on the recommendations, timelines and accountabilities, the delivery mechanism to support the improvement work and the costs, where possible, associated with implementing the recommendations.
- 4.3 In considering the action plan, Members of the Committee should also note that Council agreed all of the recommendations listed in Appendix 1.

CONTACT OFFICER: Stephen Rowan, Head of Democratic Services and Scrutiny

APPENDICES TO THIS REPORT

- Appendix 1 - Report to Extraordinary Council – 3 February 2022
Appendix 1A - Report in the Public Interest
Appendix 1B - RIPI Action Plan