

17 September 2015		ITEM: 9
Corporate Overview and Scrutiny Committee		
Thameside Complex Review		
Wards and communities affected: Grays Thurrock / All	Key Decision: Non-Key	
Report of: The Thameside Complex Review Panel		
Accountable Head of Service: Matthew Essex, Head of Regeneration		
Accountable Director: Steve Cox, Assistant Chief Executive		
This report is public		

Executive Summary

The report attached at appendix 1 details the work of the Thameside Complex Review Panel, including the recommendations they wish this Committee and subsequently Cabinet to endorse.

1. Recommendation(s)

Corporate Overview and Scrutiny are asked to endorse the following recommendations of the Panel which will be put to Cabinet:

- 1.1 Cabinet accept the conclusions set out on page 22 of the report (attached as Appendix 1) as a set of guiding principles when exploring future cultural provision at the Thameside Complex.**
- 1.2 A site that represents the Arts should remain in Grays.**
- 1.3 The Council should endeavour to improve and modernise the library, museum and registry service whether this be in the Complex or in another location.**
- 1.4 Any theatre needs to cater for the community but also a variety of professional acts and productions. It should represent the aspirations of a competitive regional theatre.**

2. Introduction and Background

- 2.1 Corporate Overview and Scrutiny Committee initiated the Thameside Complex Review Panel in January 2015 to look at the options for the building and services contained within the Thameside Complex.**

2.2 The Panel duly met and in collaboration with officers undertook research and community engagement to produce the report attached at Appendix 1.

3. Issues, Options and Analysis of Options

3.1 The Full report attached at Appendix 1 outlines the options available to the Thameside Complex and each is considered in turn in the report.

3.2 Corporate Overview and Scrutiny (and the Cabinet) may wish to take a contrary view to those set out and agreed by the cross party panel.

3.3 By agreeing to the recommendations of the report, the Cabinet will still need to decide from a number of options that will arise. The intention and understanding of the Review Panel is that a separate officer report will be able to provide the professional and specialist advice needed to consider these further options.

4. Reasons for Recommendation

4.1 These are set out in the report at Appendix 1.

5. Consultation (including Overview and Scrutiny, if applicable)

5.1 The Panel consulted service officers, members of the public and professional theatre consultants as part of their work. This is detailed in the Appendix.

6. Impact on corporate policies, priorities, performance and community impact

6.1 The Thameside Complex has a significant impact on many residents' lives and it is important for the Council to decide on the future of the building and services to best suit residents' needs and aspirations.

7. Implications

7.1 Financial

Implications verified by: **Mike Jones**
Strategic Resources Accountant

The financial implications of the preferred option will need to be considered as part of the Councils overall financial position once the cost is fully assessed.

7.2 Legal

Implications verified by: **Alison Stuart**
Principal Solicitor

Any legal implications are contained within the body of the report.

7.3 Diversity and Equality

Implications verified by: **Natalie Warren**
**Community Development and Equalities
Manager**

The report takes note of and makes recommendations based on the physical accessibility of the Complex and also the needs of those who require access to IT for education and information purposes.

7.4 Other implications (where significant) – i.e. Staff, Health, Sustainability, Crime and Disorder)

At this stage, the Panel's report does not make recommendations that impact on staff terms and conditions.

8. Background papers used in preparing the report (including their location on the Council's website or identification whether any are exempt or protected by copyright):

- Not applicable.

9. Appendices to the report

- Appendix 1 – Thameside Complex Review

Report Author:

Matthew Boulter
Principal Democratic Services Manager
Legal Services