

Time Commenced – 18:00
Time Finished – 20:10

Corporate Scrutiny and Governance Overview and Scrutiny Board

08 November 2016

Present: Councillor Stanton (Chair)
Councillors Bayliss, Carr, Graves, Hassall, Hezelgrave,
Jackson, J Khan, Pegg, Poulter, Webb and Whitby

In Attendance: Councillor Hussain, Councillor Repton, Andy Smith, Martyn
Marples, Christine Durrant, Greg Jennings, John Tomlinson,
Heather Greenan

33/16 Apologies for Absence

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors Pegg and Williams.

34/16 Late Items

There were no late items.

35/16 Declarations of Interest

Councillors Bayliss and Webb declared an interest in housing related items due to being Council-appointed Members of the Derby Homes Board. This did not preclude Members from participated in discussions or taking part in any potential vote-taking.

36/16 Minutes of the meetings held on 04 October 2016

Minutes of the meeting held 04 October 2016 were agreed as a correct record.

37/16 Forward Plan

The Board considered the contents of the Forward Plan published on 11 October 2016 and new items published on 08 November 2016. No new items were added to the Board's Work Programme.

The Board resolved to note the Forward Plans.

38/16 Homelessness Performance Update and Performance Forward Plan

The Board considered a report of the Chief Executive updating Members on the challenges the City is facing due to an increased call on statutory homelessness services. The report also provided the Board with an update on the current position performance of homelessness services with a particular emphasis on the following council scorecard indicators:

- YA&H PM03 (N1 156) (DH) Number of households living in Temporary Accommodation.
- YA&H PM06 (DH) Number of homelessness acceptances.

Members discussed the various reasons for the increase in the number of homelessness approaches and acceptances and what is currently being done to prevent homelessness. It was accepted that the Council is currently working hard to achieve this under difficult circumstances, but that more need to be done to ensure that this situation does not steadily worsen in the future. The Board made a number of suggestions to try and address this through a number of recommendations.

It was resolved to recommend to Council Cabinet that:

- 1) Further commitment is given to increasing the number of empty homes acquisitions to provide temporary homelessness accommodation;**
- 2) Consideration is given to increase the number of properties available for temporary accommodation through the existing Derby Homes housing stock;**
- 3) Further work is done to discharge some of the Council's commitment providing temporary accommodation to private sector lettings; and**
- 4) A Cost Benefit Analysis exercise is completed to consider the benefits of taking a more proactive approach to prevent homelessness rather than a reactive approach to dealing with increased homelessness approaches and acceptances, including the reintroduction of floating support.**

It was resolved to note the report and presentation.

39/16 Council Cabinet Response to Scrutiny Recommendations

The Board considered a report of the Chief Executive which allowed the scrutiny board to receive responses from Council Cabinet on recommendations made at the previous Board meeting held on 05 October 2016.

The Board resolved to note the report.

40/16 Council Cabinet Agenda

The Board considered a report from the Chief Executive on the Council Cabinet Agenda. Members considered the Council Cabinet Agenda in its entirety for the meeting scheduled for Wednesday 09 November 2016 and made a number of comments and recommendations to Council Cabinet.

Item 9 - Communities, Environment and Regulatory Services Revised Enforcement Policy

Members considered a Council Cabinet report of the Cabinet Member for Regulatory Services and Strategic Director for Communities and Place to approve and adopt an updated version of the Enforcement Policy reflecting changes to the Regulators' Code.

The Director of Communities, Environment and Regulatory Services outlined the reasons for the review and resulting changes to the policy.

The Board resolved to note the report.

Item 10 - Review of School Crossing Patrol Budget Savings

Members considered a Council Cabinet report of the Cabinet Member for Cohesion and Integration and Strategic Director Communities and Place authorise officers to undertake consultation with the public about potential changes to the concessionary fares scheme.

Members discussed the possibility of further similar savings being achieved through the reduction of the concessionary fares scheme. Members also suggested the potential use of S106 funding to provide more permanent solutions to the use of School Crossing Patrols through the introduction of controlled crossings where feasible.

The Board were in support of the proposals to maintain school crossings to ensure child safety and recommended to Council Cabinet that the possibility of further savings be looked at through the concessionary fares scheme.

Item 11 - Infinity Park Derby: Future Development

Members considered a Council Cabinet report of the Cabinet Member for Communities and City Centre Regeneration and Director of Communities and Place entering into all contractual and other legal documentation necessary to deliver the T12 Phase 2 works, the wayfinding signage and the works relating to Cuttle Brook.

The Board was informed that the consent being sought was for modest infrastructure works and that a full Environmental Impact Assessment was being carried out as part of the update to the planning application.

The Board resolved to note the report

Item 12 - Housing Related Support – consultation on savings

Members considered a Council Cabinet report of the Cabinet Member for Integrated Health and Care and Strategic Director for People seeking approval to carry out an eight week public consultation exercise on further savings from the housing related support expenditure as part of the wider consultation process for setting the Council's budget for 2017/18.

The Board was also informed that the report sought agreement for a further report on the consultation outcomes and analysis following an Equalities Impact Assessment which would enable further scrutiny on the proposals prior to implementation.

The Board resolved to note the report.

Item 13 - Quarter 2 Revenue Budget Monitoring 2016/17

Members considered a Council Cabinet report of the Leader of the Council and Chief Executive providing details of the latest financial position and forecast outturn 2016/17 Revenue Budget as at 2 October 2016.

It was reported that Council is currently forecasting an overspend of £1.023m, 0.47% against the budget requirement of £219,224,736. Members queried the position from quarter 2 in 2015 and were informed that the Council was in an overspend forecast but that this was not as low as the current position. It was further reported that officers were working hard to be back on balance by the end of quarter 4.

Members queried the overspend costs and were informed that costs in Adult Services were due to the rising costs of social care, and that all high cost packages are currently being reviewed. Members were also informed that overspend in Children's Services are largely due to cost of external foster care placements and social worker agency costs, both of which are currently under review.

The Board resolved to note the report.

Item 14 - Quarter 2 Capital Budget Monitoring 2016/17 – 2018/19

Members considered a Council Cabinet report of the Leader of the Council and Chief Executive on the revised financial position for the 2016/17 Capital Budget for Quarter 2.

It was reported that there is currently around a £15m drift in the Capital Programme for 2016/17, but that officers were endeavouring to resolve this to try and achieve the £66m programme by the end of the financial year.

It was reported that £25,000,000 of slippage to 2017/18 was for the waste management facility which was due to be paid once the facility was completed, which is now scheduled to be completed in September 2017 at the earliest, consequently delaying payment of the council's contribution. Members queried any additional costs relating to this that the Council would be liable for and were reassured that the contract had ensured that any additional costs incurred for processing waste would be absorbed by the management company.

The Board resolved to note the report and the current position of the Capital Programme to date.

Item 15 - Treasury Management Mid-Year Report 2016/17

Members considered a report of the Leader of the Council and Chief Executive on how the Council conducted its borrowing and investments during 2016/17 and reports on the prudential indicator activity for the period 1 April 2016 to 30 September 2016 which the Council is required to report under the Local Government Act 2003.

Members were informed that investment activity was currently low due to low percentage rates and the need for secure, liquid investments which do not attract high interest rates.

The Board resolved to note the report.

Item 16 - Medium Term Financial Strategy 2017/18 to 2019/20

Members considered a report of the Leader of the Council and Chief Finance Officer outlining the Medium Term Financial Strategy - MTFS - for the revenue and capital budget over the three year period 2017/18 to 2019/20. Members were informed that the MTFS sets out the Council's strategic approach to the management of its finances and details the resource projections for the forthcoming three years.

The Chief Finance Officer outlined the key areas of the report in relation to:

- The context of the Medium Term Financial Strategy
- The Council's current Medium Term Financial Plan for 2016/17 to 2018/19
- The current national context
- The current local context
- The strategy to deliver a balanced sustainable MTFP
- The draft Medium Term Financial Plan for 2017/18 to 2019/20
- The 2017/18 to 2019/20 capital strategy
- Risk planning
- The consultation and budget timetable

Item 17 - Performance Monitoring 2016/17 – Quarter Two Results and Mid-Year Target Review

Members considered a report of the Leader of the Council highlighting the progress of key performance measures included in the departmental business plans which reflect the refreshed 2016-19 Council Plan. It was reported that these priority measures form the Council Scorecard for 2016/17 and reflect key performance / budget risks that Chief Officers and Members need to be reviewing outcomes against on a regular basis. An updated position on results for Council Scorecard measures this report was also reported with proposed changes to the scorecard, as a result of a mid-year review, that was agreed in July 2016.

Members of the Board queried areas of deteriorating performance and were informed that further information on the valuation of assets would be provided through a report to the next meeting of the Regenerating Our City Board. It was also reported that food safety would be the subject of the performance report to the next meeting of the Corporate Scrutiny and Governance Board in December.

The Board resolved to note the report.

Item 18 - Contract and Financial Procedure Matters

Members considered a Council Cabinet report of the Leader of the Council and Chief Executive on items that require reporting to and approval by Council Cabinet under Contract and Financial Procedure rules.

It was reported that items included:

- Change of use reserves
- Allocation of additional external funding

The Board queried a change to the capital programme in relation of use of £60,000 held in reserves from Category Management to Communications Consultancy. Members expressed concern over the use of reserves for the employment of a Communications Consultant during the current financial position, and whether or not the use of such reserves could be put to better use.

Members were concerned that the use of consultants was not in line with the Council's current policy guidelines and that any proposed use of consultants should be backed up by the reasons and need for this as well as the current levels of budget and staffing to deliver the existing service. Members also thought that clear and transparent information should be provided on clear outcomes and key deliverables, timescales and details of how the outcomes and performance of the role would be scrutinised and monitored.

The Corporate Scrutiny and Governance Board resolved to recommend to Council Cabinet that:

- 1) Further consideration should be given to the transfer and use of reserves to employ consultants given the current financial position of the Council; and**
- 2) That the decision to employ consultants to deliver work for the Council should be backed up by clear and transparent information on:**
 - current levels of budget and staffing to deliver the existing service;**
 - the outlining of issues and clear reasons for requiring a consultant to deliver services;**
 - clear outcomes and key deliverables;**
 - clear and defined timescales for delivery; and**
 - details of how the outcomes and performance will be scrutinised and monitored.**

The Board resolved to note the report.

MINUTES END