

**THE OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY COMMITTEE**

**29 January 2018**

Attendance:

Councillors:

Learney (Chairman) (P)

Evans (P)  
Gemmell (P)  
Jeffs (P)  
Pearson (P)

Stallard (P)  
Thompson(P)  
Tod (P)  
Weston

Deputy Members:

Councillor Gottlieb (Standing Deputy for Councillor Weston)

Others in attendance who addressed the meeting:

Councillors Horrill (Leader with Portfolio for Housing Services), Ashton (Portfolio Holder for Finance), Brook (Portfolio Holder for Built Environment), Godfrey (Portfolio Holder for Professional Services), Griffiths (Portfolio Holder for Health and Wellbeing), Miller (Portfolio Holder for Estates) and Warwick (Portfolio Holder for Environment).

Others in attendance who did not address the meeting:

Councillors Humby (Portfolio Holder for Business Partnerships) and Weir

---

1. **DISCLOSURE OF INTERESTS**

Councillor Gottlieb declared a personal and pecuniary interest in the St Clements Surgery. He did not believe that it was a prejudicial interest but he would, at the Chairman's discretion, leave the room if required to do so.

2. **MINUTES**

The Committee agreed that the style of minutes used to report matters of the previous meeting which clearly set out matters raised and actions agreed by the Committee was appropriate and should be continued.

RESOLVED:

That the minutes of meeting held 4 January 2018 be approved and adopted.

### 3. **SCRUTINY WORK PROGRAMME**

The Chairman announced that on 20 March 2018, it was likely that a joint special meeting with the Audit Committee would be required to consider changes to the Council's Constitution. There would also be a separate, special meeting of the Committee with regard to decisions related to the Leisure Centre project. Finalised arrangements (including start times), would be communicated as soon as possible.

The Chairman also advised that the meeting of the Committee on 9 April 2018 was likely to be no longer required and it was therefore proposed that this meeting be cancelled pending review of the scheduling of items in the remainder of the Work Programme.

RESOLVED:

That subject to the above changes, the Scrutiny Work Programme for 2017/18 be noted.

### 4. **SUPPLEMENTARY ITEMS**

The Committee noted that the following Reports: item 5 (Report OS189), item 6 (Report OS188), item 7 (Report OS190), item 9 (Report OS191) had not been notified for inclusion on the agenda within the statutory deadline. The Chairman agreed to accept the items onto the agenda as matters requiring urgent consideration to ensure the Committee were able to scrutinise the matters within each of the Reports in advance of Cabinet on 14 February 2018.

### 5. **MEDIUM TERM FINANCIAL STRATEGY**

(Report OS189 refers)

In advance of the Committee's consideration of agenda items below, Councillor Ashton gave presentation on the background to the Council's Financial Management arrangements for 2018/19, highlighting the financial context for the forthcoming year and going forward. The presentation is included as an **appendix** to the Minutes.

Councillor Ashton introduced the Report and its appendices and together with the other members of Cabinet and officers present, they responded to detailed questions. In summary, the following matters were raised and actions agreed by the Committee for consideration by Cabinet:

- (i) Whilst it was appreciated that the chart at paragraph 10.1.6 on page 6 of the report was illustrative, the Council should have a clearer and more detailed plan going forward (at least the next four years) of its capital expenditure forecast for each of the Council's outcomes.

A more detailed medium term capital expenditure plan be developed to include costings (and savings and revenue) where possible for each of the Council's outcomes. This will help illustrate how the challenges of the emerging funding gap, particularly in 2019/20 and 2020/21, was to be managed.

- (ii) The Council should, as a landlord and commercial property holder, consider the general economic position of the Winchester town area and challenges facing the business community in general when determining its leasing arrangements. This could potentially include renting properties to local businesses at preferential, sub market rents.

As landlord and commercial property holder, the Council should work with other landlords and partners to consider how it could provide further support to businesses in the Winchester town area and the business community in general.

- (iii) It was noted that the Public Services (Social Value) Act 2013 required Councils to consider how its commissioning of public services would also achieve wider social, economic and environmental benefits.

Whilst criteria for capital expenditure under the Council's Strategic Asset Purchase scheme included socio economic benefits, the Council should consider whether it was having due regard to the Act's requirements as part of its wider work.

At the conclusion of questions and debate, the Committee welcomed clarification of the Council's financial position as presented by the Portfolio Holder and also the format of the Committee's report. Members requested that Cabinet have regard to the matters raised by the Committee and agreed actions to address during its consideration of the Medium Term Financial Strategy.

**RESOLVED:**

That Cabinet have regard to the matters raised by the Committee and agreed actions to address during its consideration of the Medium Term Financial Strategy.

6. **GENERAL FUND BUDGET 2018/19**  
(Report OS188 refers)

Councillor Ashton introduced the Report and its appendices and together with the other members of Cabinet and officers present, they responded to detailed questions. These included questions related to a review of processes in the Council's Planning service, increased Planning fees, development of a Smart-City App, the Council's apprentice scheme, General Fund Reserves and also improvements to recycling levels.

At the conclusion of questions and debate, the Committee agreed that there were no particular matters that it wished to raise for Cabinet to further consider.

RESOLVED:

That the General Fund Budget 2018/19 report be noted.

7. **TREASURY MANAGEMENT STRATEGY 2018/19**  
(Report OS190 refers)

At the conclusion of questions and debate, the Committee agreed that there were no particular matters that it wished to raise for Cabinet to further consider.

RESOLVED:

That the Treasury Management Strategy 2018/19 report be noted.

8. **HOUSING REVENUE ACCOUNT BUDGET 2018/19 AND BUSINESS PLAN 2018/2048**  
(Report OS192 refers)

Councillor Horrill introduced the Report and its appendices and together with the officers present, they responded to detailed questions. These included questions related to garages and proposals for their transfer to the General Fund. Further to this, it was suggested that there may be opportunity to review tenant's storage in general and also whether this review could be extended to include potentially renting of storage space to small businesses

At the conclusion of questions and debate, the Committee thanked officers for their continued excellent management of the Council's Landlord service and the Housing Revenue Account. Members also welcomed the ongoing commitment to the new homes programme. The Committee agreed that there were no particular matters that it wished to raise for Cabinet to further consider.

RESOLVED:

That the Housing Revenue Account Budget 2018/19 and Business Plan 2018/2048 report be noted.

9. **CAPITAL STRATEGY**  
(Report OS191 refers)

Councillor Ashton introduced the Report and its appendices and together with the other members of Cabinet and officers present, they responded to detailed questions. The Committee welcomed 'stress testing' with regard to the revenue consequences of the Capital Programme on the General Fund, however it was noted that there may be difficulties associated from such a large programme of works. The Committee was also supportive of there being continued processes for the approval of new projects proposed for the Capital Programme. The Committee agreed that there were no particular matters that it wished to raise for Cabinet to further consider.

RESOLVED:

That the Capital Strategy report be noted.

10. **Q3 FINANCIAL AND PERFORMANCE MONITORING**  
(Report OS193 refers)

The Chairman advised that due to the late hour and as there were no matters of urgent consideration, Report OS193 be deferred to the next scheduled meeting of the Committee

The meeting commenced at 6.30pm and concluded at 10pm.

Chairman