

THE OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY COMMITTEE

4 January 2018

Attendance:

Councillors:

Learney (Chairman) (P)

Evans (P)
Gemmell (P)
Jeffer
Pearson (P)

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

Deputy Members:

Councillor Gottlieb (Standing Deputy for Councillor Jeffer)

Others in attendance who addressed the meeting:

Councillors Horrill (Leader with Portfolio for Housing Services), Ashton (Portfolio Holder for Finance), Griffiths (Portfolio Holder for Health and Wellbeing), Humby (Portfolio Holder for Business Partnerships) and Warwick (Portfolio Holder for Environment).

Others in attendance who did not address the meeting:

Councillors Godfrey (Portfolio Holder for Professional Services) and Miller (Portfolio Holder for Estates)

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 there was a specific discussion about the property. As no reference was made to St Clements Surgery during consideration of the items, he remained in the room and voted on the matters thereon.

Councillor Stallard, as a Hampshire County Councillor with responsibility for the Supporting Families Programme, declared a personal but not prejudicial interest as the Programme (in particular) helped support the delivery of the Health and Happiness outcome of the Council Strategy (agenda item 4 below).

2. **MINUTES**

RESOLVED:

That the minutes of meeting held 20 November 2017 and the special meeting held on 27 November 2017 be approved and adopted.

3. **SCRUTINY WORK PROGRAMME AND FEBRUARY 2018 FORWARD PLAN**

The Chairman advised that whilst she worked with officers to try to ensure as even a spread as possible of business items at meetings throughout the year, it was acknowledged that the next scheduled committee on 29 January 2018 potentially had a particularly heavy agenda. Therefore it may be necessary to schedule an additional meeting and Members would be consulted accordingly as soon as possible.

Members also requested that business items be brought forward to committees in a timely fashion to ensure that these could be given their proper attention in advance of meetings.

RESOLVED:

1. That the February 2018 Forward Plan be noted; and
2. That the Scrutiny Work Programme for 2017/18 be noted.

4. **COUNCIL STRATEGY REFRESH**
(Report OS180 refers)

The Committee noted that Report OS180 had not been notified for inclusion on the agenda within the statutory deadline. The Chairman agreed to accept the item onto the agenda as a matter requiring urgent consideration to ensure the Committee could consider the refresh of the Council Strategy in advance of Cabinet on 17 January 2018.

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

- (i) The potential financial risk from the Council being more entrepreneurial in its approach to delivering its strategic outcomes.

For each project brought forward to help enable these, each would be accompanied by detailed risk assessments, where relevant. The Risk Management section on page 3 of Report OS180 should be reviewed accordingly.

- (ii) The Strategy should make specific reference to protecting the district's important historic heritage, including archaeology.
- (iii) Uncertainties and risks associated with Brexit may impact on the Council's economic position.
- (iv) Volunteering should be encouraged and extended to support all local services, in addition to sporting activities and events.

Where possible, reference be made within the refresh of the Council Strategy.

- (v) Increase overall recycling levels by improving existing contamination rates of recyclable waste.

The Portfolio Holder for Environment investigate campaigns to continue the improvements to existing contamination rates of recyclables.

- (vi) Apparent health inequalities across the district and also dementia as a key issue.

Consideration be given to having specific measures and actions to address health inequalities. Dementia should also be referenced within performance measures.

- (vii) The Council Strategy should be further refined by having plainer English wherever possible, as was a public facing document.

Where possible, improvements be made within the text of the refresh of the Council Strategy.

- (viii) Areas within the text of the Strategy as well as some layout issues and also various matters regarding the actions and performance measures within Appendix 2 may require further clarification and improved detail.

Cabinet revisit the matters raised above to be addressed in the version of the Council Strategy for approval and publication.

At the conclusion of debate, subject to reference to the matters raised and agreed actions above, the Committee welcomed the improvements made to the existing Council Strategy, including the approach taken with regard to the four key outcomes - each to be delivered with an entrepreneurial approach.

RESOLVED:

That Cabinet have regard to the matters raised by the Committee and agreed actions to address during its consideration of the Council Strategy 2017-2020 (Refresh October 2017), in advance of its approval and publication.

5. **COMMUNITY SAFETY PARTNERSHIP PERFORMANCE REVIEW**
(Report OS178 refers)

Councillor Griffiths introduced the report and highlighted particular outcomes of the partnership from the previous 12 months and drew attention to key priorities and challenges going forward.

The Chairman welcomed to the meeting Chief Inspector Mark Lynch and Dave Turner (Service Group Commander), Hampshire Fire and Rescue. Where requested, they both provided updates to the Committee and responded to questions and in summary, the following matters were raised and actions agreed for consideration by the Portfolio Holder and Community Safety Partnership:

- (i) The Police continued to support PACT (Police and Communities Together) meetings and acknowledged that these achieved positive outcomes.

Ward Councillors help increase public awareness of PACT meetings and other police community engagement initiatives.

- (ii) The potential of reputational damage to the Police, the Council and to other community safety partners should be given due regard of the partnership not being successful

The Risk Management section on page 3 of Report OS178 be reviewed in future having regard to potential reputational damage.

- (iii) Performance information in future reports be inclusive of trend and benchmarking data.

In considering data in Appendices 1 and 2 of the Report, in future, this be inclusive of trend and benchmarking data – for example comparisons to previous year(s) and if possible, targets to be achieved in the future.

- (iv) The 'Welcome to the Neighbourhood' initiative for new students living in the Town Forum area of Winchester was welcomed and that it be expanded into other areas.

It be investigated that the scheme be expanded to other areas of Winchester where it was apparent that students were also now residing.

At the conclusion of debate, the Committee agreed that the Portfolio Holder should have particular regard to its commendation of the positive and collaborative work undertaken by the range of organisations involved in the partnership – including the City Council. Whilst it was recognised that there was an apparent rise in some areas of crime and that these should be carefully monitored, it was also acknowledged that the Winchester District was generally a low crime area. The Committee also requested that due to the important area of work undertaken by the partnership, consideration be given in future to an All Member Briefing on its work.

RESOLVED:

That the Portfolio Holder for Health and Wellbeing have regard to the matters raised by the Committee and agreed actions to address as set out above.

The meeting commenced at 6.30pm, adjourned between 7.55pm and 8.10pm and concluded at 9.50pm.

Chairman