

THE SCRUTINY COMMITTEE

Wednesday, 5 February 2020

Attendance:

Councillors
Brook (Chairperson)

Lumby
Craske
Gordon-Smith
Gottlieb

Hiscock
Horrill
Laming
Power

Apologies for Absent:

Councillors Griffiths

1. **APOLOGIES AND DEPUTY MEMBERS**

([Audio Recording](#))

Apologies were noted as above.

2. **DECLARATIONS OF INTERESTS**

([Audio recording](#))

Councillor Hiscock declared a non pecuniary interest in relation to all reports on the agenda due to his role as a County Councillor.

3. **CHAIRPERSON'S ANNOUNCEMENTS**

([Audio Recording](#))

The Chairperson advised that the meeting of the Committee on the 12 March 2020 would be discussing two items; the Safety Partnership Review and a review of the issues with the roll out of glass recycling service and bins. The review of glass recycling issues would be a 1-hour session in order to produce a positive, constructive action plan.

4. **MINUTES**

([Audio Recording](#))

RESOLVED:

That the minutes of the previous meeting held on the 9 September 2019 be approved and adopted.

5. **TO NOTE THE SCRUTINY WORK PROGRAMME FOR 2019/20 AND THE FORWARD PLAN FOR FEBRUARY 2020**

([Audio Recording](#))

RESOLVED:

That the Scrutiny Work Programme for 2019/20 and the Forward Plan for February 2020 be noted.

6. **PUBLIC PARTICIPATION**

([Audio Recording](#))

No comments or questions were made during public participation.

7. **MEDIUM TERM FINANCIAL STRATEGY, BUDGET AND COUNCIL TAX 2020/21. (REPORTS SC016 & CAB3211)**

([Audio Recording and Report ref: SC016 & CAB3211](#))

Councillor Cutler, the Strategic Director: Services (Interim) and the Finance Manager (Strategic Finance) set out the key proposals within the report. Councillor Cutler made specific reference to central Government funding, the changes in recycling credits and the Councils “transition budget”.

The Committee asked questions and raised comments which were responded to by officers and Councillor Cutler accordingly. At the conclusion of questions and debate, the Committee agreed that the following action points would be forwarded to Cabinet for their February meeting.

1. When approving the closure of the public conveniences at Middlebrook St and Worthy Lane consideration be given to demand and availability of 24hr public toilet provision in Winchester
2. Members to have regard to the action plan arising from the internal audit undertaken into the implementation of the glass recycling bins when considering the introduction of an enhanced garden waste service.
3. That the budget for 2020/21 as set out recommends a 3% increase in Council Tax despite forecast ‘windfall’ savings

RESOLVED:

That the Medium Term Financial Strategy, Budget and Council Tax 2020/21 report be noted.

8. **CAPITAL INVESTMENT STRATEGY 2020-2030 (SC017 & CAB3209)**

[\(Audio Recording and Report ref: SC017 & CAB3209\)](#)

Councillor Cutler, the Strategic Director: Services (Interim) and the Finance Manager (Capital & Treasury) set out the key proposals within the report. Councillor Cutler updated the committee regarding the linkage to the new council plan, the current position regarding council borrowing and the increase in borrowing costs.

The committee asked questions and raised comments which were responded to by officers and Councillor Cutler accordingly. 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 Capital Investment Strategy 2020-2030 report be noted.

9. **TREASURY MANAGEMENT STRATEGY 2020/21 (SC019 & CAB3218)**

[\(Audio Recording and Report ref: SC019 & CAB3218\)](#)

Councillor Cutler, the Strategic Director: Services (Interim) and the Finance Manager (Capital & Treasury) set out the key proposals within the report. Councillor Cutler advised that following the council's declaration of a Climate Emergency the Investment Strategy now included a commitment not to make investments either directly or indirectly in companies directly involved in the fossil fuel industry.

The committee asked questions and raised comments which were responded to by officers and Councillor Cutler accordingly. 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 Capital Investment Strategy 2020-2030 report be noted.

10. **HOUSING REVENUE ACCOUNT (HRA) BUDGET 2020/21 & BUSINESS PLAN (SC018 & CAB3214)**

[\(Audio Recording and Report ref: SC018 & CAB3214\)](#)

Councillor Learney, the Strategic Director: Services (Interim) and the Housing Finance and Resources Manager set out the key proposals within the report. Councillor Learney updated the Committee regarding fire safety proposals and climate change initiatives relating to the Council's housing stock.

The Committee asked questions and raised comments which were responded to by officers and Councillor Learney accordingly. 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 Housing Revenue Account Budget 2020/21 & Business Plan be noted.

11. **Q3 FINANCIAL AND PERFORMANCE MONITORING (SC020 & CAB3222)**

[\(Audio Recording and Report ref: SC020 & CAB3222\)](#)

Councillor Tod set out the key issues within the report and reminded members that the updates provided were reporting against the previous Council strategy outcomes and key performance issues.

The Committee asked questions and raised comments which were responded to by officers and Councillor Tod accordingly. At the conclusion of questions and debate, the Committee agreed that the following action points would be forwarded to the Cabinet meeting in February.

1. That a member briefing be arranged to take place before consideration of the next quarterly monitoring report to cover the new key performance indicators (KPIs)
2. Cabinet members responsible for projects be asked to endeavour to attend Scrutiny Committee and to answer member's questions.
3. That details of the review of the Partnered Home Purchase (PHP) pilot scheme be shared by email with members in a report.
4. That the Cabinet Member for Built Environment and Wellbeing confirm custom house build initiatives is being considered and included in the development of the Local Plan.

RESOLVED:

That the Quarter 3 Finance and Performance Monitoring be noted.

The meeting commenced at 6.30 pm and concluded at 8.15 pm

Chairperson