

PERFORMANCE PANEL

Monday, 14 June 2021

Attendance:

Panel Members Present. Councillors: Horrill (Chairperson), Cook, Craske, Ferguson and Williams

Cabinet Members Present. Councillors; Clear, Thompson, Gordon-Smith, Tod, Murphy, Cutler and Learney.

Other Members Present. Councillor Weir

Officers Present. Andy Hickman, Susan Robbins, Lisa Kirkman, Richard Botham, Simon Howson and Matthew Watson

1. **REVIEW OF QUESTIONS PRE-SUBMITTED FROM PANEL MEMBERS**

Questions that had been pre-submitted had been circulated to panel members with initial responses ahead of the meeting (these questions and responses are attached at appendix 1)

Officers had been invited to attend this meeting to respond with any supplementary points. It was agreed that these questions would be considered as part of item 2. The Chair advised that because of timing issues, the financial report wasn't included within the agenda but that the financial outturn report was scheduled for the July Scrutiny Committee meeting.

2. **DETAILED REVIEW OF DRAFT Q4 FINANCE AND PERFORMANCE MONITORING**

The panel reviewed the draft report as follows (any page numbers referenced relate to the page numbers of the panel's report pack.)

Page 5 & 12. Question submitted "Ref the timescales ref projects increased costs?" It was agreed to return to this question when reviewing the relevant projects later in the meeting.

Page 8. Question submitted "Are the electric charging points on council land now all installed? Cllr Murphy and Simon Finch provided an update on the latest position and specifically informed the panel of the key technical issues with the remaining, final installations. **Action: Simon Finch to report back and confirm timescales for the expected completion of the final sites.**

Page 9. Question submitted "Where is the land in Littleton recommended for the Solar Farm?" In addition to the response provided in appendix 1, Councillor Murphy advised of the possibility of a WCC site in that area, but that much further work was required before any recommendations or plans could be made.

Cllr Ferguson asked for further details of how the work of the Wessex Green Hub would fit in as part of the carbon neutrality programme? Councillor Murphy responded and advised of the member training session on the 21 of June 2021, which was intended to be an initial session, focussed on gathering information on what would be possible if there were no restrictions, a further stage would focus on what is feasible.

Page 12. Winchester Sport & Leisure Park, following a question, Councillor Thompson advised that the final open forum would meet in July, following that, its role would be undertaken by an advisory board involving a wide range of stakeholders. Cllr Clear advised of an upcoming Winchester, Sport and Leisure Board meeting and following a question regarding outdoor equipment from Allegra's Ambition, she advised that this would be raised at the upcoming WSL Board meeting.

Page 14. Question submitted "What are latest plans regarding affordable homes funded from the North Whiteley MDA?" Simon Finch advised that in total the development would provide approximately £17.5m of contributions for social and affordable housing and that approximately £1.75m had been received to date. Richard Botham advised that the funding was built into the housing revenue account business plan and at this stage, wasn't aligned to specific sites, but proposals would come to members at the appropriate time.

Page 22. Councillor Ferguson asked regarding the impact of partnerships that the council contributes to and made specific reference to the partnership involving the Procurement Team who are consulting with both the FSB and Winchester Fairtrade Network (WFN) on a draft guide to sustainable procurement. **Action: Councillor Thompson agreed to take this matter away.**

Page 23. Following a question regarding the staff survey, Lisa Kirkman provided an overview regarding the initial practical actions taken to date but also how managers were gaining information into staff's attitudes to working from home, including their views on its impact on them and their families. In general, the results were very positive with 90% wanting to carry on working from home in some way. It was also intended to report all relevant HR matters to the Audit & Governance Committee in the future. Questions were asked as to whether there had been an impact on staff retention rates and the re-balancing of home and work lives. Lisa Kirkman advised that In line with most organisations, staff training, appraisals, inductions etc had moved successfully to being online. Whilst there were signs that the pandemic had allowed staff to re-evaluate their priorities and needs, no specific issues had been raised regarding staff retention.

Page 25 Question Submitted. "*Appendix 2 pg. 25 Your Services Your Voice YSYV06 – What impact does it have when the telephone service goes down? What message goes out to users during any outages? What is the impact on service provision when the system goes back online? Are there times when this outage is prolonged i.e. how long are they out?*" Lisa Kirkman advised that it was extremely rare for the telephone system to fail in its entirety, but that occasionally individual telephone products do fail which can impact customers/users. **Action Officers to formally respond to this question.** Following a subsequent question regarding the procurement of a telephone system, Lisa Kirkman

advised that it was in the later stages of procurement and could advise of further details.

Page 26 Data Scheduling, Cllr Horrill was concerned that because of the scheduling of meetings and data there could be significant delays in when members could review specific data. **Action. Officers to take the issue away and report back.**

Page 31 A panel member asked how any consultancy expenditure for major projects is communicated to members and members of the public. Lisa Kirkman advised that consultancy expenditure is captured as part of these reports and made public through publication to the scrutiny committee and cabinet following debate at the performance panel.

Page 32. Following a question regarding the depot sale proposals, officers were asked whether members could see the tendering of sale instruction? **Action: Richard Botham agreed to follow up on this question.**

Page 35. Following a question regarding the carbon-neutral programme, it was confirmed that Richard Botham is the director lead for co-ordinating these initiatives supported by Susan Robbins and an Implementation group which includes Cllr Murphy.

Page 43. A question was asked regarding the Passivhse development in Micheldever and if the intention was to obtain the learning from this development before commencing with other similar initiatives. Cllr Learney advised that the intention was to run similar, low carbon projects in parallel. Following further discussion regarding the publication and understanding of the standards involved in these developments, Cllr Learney advised that she would discuss these points with Cllr Gordon Smith.

Page 49. Re Central Winchester. Cllr Craske felt that the viability assessment was a risk to the project and asked whether members should have been provided with the assessment at this stage, Cllr Learney advised that the viability documents should be available to Councillors in July 2021.

Page 49. Lisa Kirkman advised that the links on these pages should not have been included in the report. **Action: Officers to update report.**

Page 58. A question was asked regarding resources and councillor assistance to support the progress of the local plan particularly with regards to the Town area and how it interacts with the Vision for Winchester project. Simon Finch responded and advised that a timeline would be coming to the Local Plan Advisory Group and then the cabinet in July. Mr Finch advised that the council were currently analysing over 2,000 responses to the strategic options consultation, also that officers had been discussing various issues with the Town Forum planning group and that he hoped to give an update at the town forum meeting on the 24th of June. Cllr Craske agreed to discuss issues further with Cllr Gordon Smith. Further discussion took place regarding the spatial elements of the Vision for Winchester project and how aspects of the Vision work could be used for the benefit of the wider district.

Following a question regarding timescales and timelines for the local plan development, Simon Finch provided an overview of the key risks and mitigations that were in place.

Page 61. Cllr Horrill asked a question regarding the published new homes list and whether the published list was shown in its entirety. Richard Botham advised that not every site could be routinely published on a public list such as this but that details would be provided to members as sites came forward.

Page 65. Following a question regarding the Winchester Movement Strategy Phases 1 and 2, Councillor Tod advised that Hampshire County Council had recently cancelled several meetings which had affected some decision making, however, papers were being finalised and a members briefing was being scheduled for July 2021.

Page 72. Following a question regarding housing arrears, officers advised that the level of arrears had not increased to the level expected and when comparing the results with other authorities and/or registered providers they show a relatively positive picture. Richard Botham advised of several measures that the council used to help residents and that a further update on this was being prepared for a future Business and Housing Policy Committee (BHP). A related question was asked regarding the “spike” in December arrears and officers advised that additional measures to reduce this could be discussed as part of the future paper planned for the BHP Committee.

Page 72. Fly-tipping. Cllr Cutler advised that a meeting was being held shortly with interested parties involved with fly-tipping to pull together and discuss various issues such as reporting of incidents, fly-tips on private land and communications to residents to produce a combined strategy. Cllr Clear advised of two recent successful prosecutions relating to fly-tipping. Several panel members offered to help with input to discussions if required and Richard Botham advised of the trialling of cameras in hotspot locations. **Action: Officers to update all members following these discussions.**

3. **NOTES FROM THE PREVIOUS MEETING OF THE 22ND FEBRUARY 2021**

Cllr Craske asked about the previously raised issue concerning a previous telecoms tower application. Simon Howson advised that an update had been received and will be circulated to members following the meeting. **Action: Update to be circulated.**

4. **ACTIONS ARISING FROM THIS MEETING**

Members of the panel agreed on the actions as outlined above. It was agreed that any further updates to the submitted questions should be added to the original document and re-circulated to panel members.

The panel did not have any further matters that it wished to bring to the attention of the Scrutiny Committee.