

PERFORMANCE PANEL

Monday, 6 June 2022

Attendance:

Councillors
Horrill (Chairperson)

Cook
Craske

Cutler
Westwood

Others in attendance:

Councillors Gordon-Smith, Power, Thompson, Tod, Porter and Batho

1. DETAILED REVIEW OF DRAFT Q4 PERFORMANCE MONITORING

Questions that had been pre-submitted had been circulated to panel members ahead of the meeting (these questions were attached in appendix 1.)

The panel reviewed the draft report as follows (any page numbers referenced relate to the page numbers of the panel's report pack.) The chairperson noted that the financial out-turn papers would be presented directly to the Scrutiny committee and so were not part of this meeting's agenda.

Page 8. A question was asked re the gap and actions required for the city council to achieve the 2024 carbon neutrality target? Mrs Robbins advised that officers were in the process of producing an action plan and road map concerning the 2024 target. Consultants were also being appointed to assist in the production of these, both of which would be presented at a future policy committee meeting. A follow-up question was asked regarding the cost of consultants and the panel was advised that whilst the specific figure was not available the costs were anticipated to be below the budgeted figure of £75,000. **Action. Officers to provide an update on when the action plan and roadmap are expected to be presented to Health & Environment Policy Committee.**

Page 10 – A question was asked regarding the Micheldever Wetlands project and the progress made. Mr Botham gave an overview of the work in progress but would advise the panel of a more detailed update and timeframes following the meeting. **Action. Officers to respond with this information.**

Page 10 A question was asked regarding activity and progress with Project Integra and food waste. Mr Hickman and Councillor Tod responded with several points. They advised that whilst the government had not yet reported back on the requirements, several actions were already in motion including establishing a budget of £150k to fund feasibility work to prepare for the implementation of a food waste trial collection system in 2023.

A project manager is also being recruited to progress the project and to develop the business case. In response to several supplementary questions, Counter Tod advised that the council was learning important lessons from other authorities including several in Hampshire. **Action. Officers to confirm a paper would be scheduled for an appropriate policy committee later in the year.**

Page 12. A question was asked regarding current staffing levels at the leisure centre and whether issues remained. Councillor Thompson advised that following recent briefings, she was not aware of any staffing level issues. Councillor Cook asked for the notes of this meeting to include that she had recently been told that certain classes at the centre had been cancelled because of staff shortages.

Page 12. A question was asked regarding the final budget and plans for the North Walls pavilion. Mr Botham advised that the Town Forum had previously established a project board and the revised, designs had been approved by the board but were likely to exceed the original budget provision. It was intended to report back to the Town Forum this year regarding the shortfall and potential funding options. **Action. Officers to confirm the high-level timetable and budgets to members of the panel.**

Page 15. A question was asked regarding the proposed cuts to the council's social inclusion programme. Mrs Knight advised that officers were preparing for proposed cuts and that the full details wouldn't be available until the Hampshire County Council cabinet meeting on the 16th of June. Following further questions, Mrs Knight advised that officers anticipated that it may be possible for the first year's budget cuts to be covered by existing resources, but that further financial support would be assessed when the final HCC budget cuts are formally announced.

Page 16. A question was asked regarding the retrofit programme including the council's direction of travel and member engagement plans. Mrs Knight advised on several aspects of the programme including the preparatory work undertaken. She also confirmed that a decision regarding the extension of a key contract relating to the programme was due to be taken in June 2022.

A further question was asked concerning the measurement of impacts and improvements arising from the retrofit programme and Mrs Knight advised the panel on the progress made on this. **Action. Mrs Knight agreed to discuss with the portfolio holder concerning a member briefing on several housing matters including the retrofit programme, lettings and new homes.**

Page 17. Re the paragraph headed "Working with developers to ensure that they provide affordable housing and homes at fair market value as part of new developments". A question was asked seeking further clarity regarding the reference to the affordable extra-care scheme at Kings Barton. **Action. Mr Botham to review with officers in New Homes team and provide an update to members.**

Page 19. A question was asked regarding the three new industrial units at the former Bishop's Waltham Depot which were completed last year and whether any further units had been let. Mr Botham advised that one unit was let and occupied, one unit was subject to heads of terms agreement and progressing well and there were several interested parties interested in the 3rd unit.

Page 23. A question was asked regarding the festival survey results and retail group study results and whether these could be made available to members. Mrs Robbins and Councillor Tod advised that the intention was to share the markets report data with the individual organisations responsible for the markets, and the relevant ward members. **Action. Officers to review whether an update to the relevant policy committee would be useful, particularly concerning market procurement (including retendering timetable) and whether festival data would influence future work.**

Page 24. A question was asked regarding the outcome of ShopAppy. Mrs Robbins advised that the council had supported this as a pilot project, but that WCC funding had now ended. ShopAppy was now liaising directly with local businesses where a continuation of service was required. From a supplementary question, Mrs Robbins believed that the funding amounted to £16k but that this would be confirmed. **Action. Officers to confirm the funding as above.**

Page 27. A question was asked about the feedback and lessons learnt concerning the Local Plan in Q4. Mr Finch gave a detailed response to the questions raised and outlined several points which would be considered for future reference. This included communication with parish councils on local plan matters following comments received from them regarding their recent consideration of possible future housing numbers and SHELAA sites in the market towns and villages. He added that the timely processing of consultation responses will also be important moving forwards with the plan and looking at resources is part of this. . In relation to further questions concerning the project timetable, Mr Finch advised that the overall adoption date of August 2024 remained in place but that the plan had to remain flexible and individual stages could be subject to amendment. **Action. Officers to consider the learnings from previous consultations that could assist future consultation stages of the new local plan.**

Page 35. Regarding the future review of performance indicators as part of the Council Plan refresh, VLE08 was provided as an example of an indicator where the reported data could be out of date by the time it was provided. **Action. Officers to review as part of the council plan refresh.**

Page 37. A question was asked regarding the Bar End Depot and why the March drop-in event was not a formal consultation event and not promoted more proactively. Cllr Thompson, Cllr Tod and Cllr Gordon Smith advised that the purpose of the event was to check that previous consultation feedback remained valid and that different engagement methods should be used on projects where these different approaches achieved better results.

Page 41. A question was asked regarding the statement “*Updated council carbon footprint report received in February 2022 shows positive progress and a 34.2% reduction during the year to end of March 2021.*” It was asked whether the council remained on track with its 5-year carbon neutral target and what the intentions were regarding offsetting. Mrs Robbins advised that the draft off-setting policy had been reported through to the policy committee before its approval at cabinet. A further update regarding the overall carbon-neutral target would be provided through the planned action plan and subsequent quarterly reports. **Action. Officers to action as above.**

Page 60. A question was asked re the RAG rating for the Local Plan being green with the delay to the site discussions with Parish Councils? Councillor Gordon Smith and Mr Finch responded. Councillor Gordon Smith reminded the panel of several issues during the Q4 period that had impacted the local plan project including phosphates and housing numbers. Mr Finch stated that he appreciated the point made and referred to his earlier response to the question on page 27. **Action. A follow-up question was raised regarding the settlement hierarchy policy and Mr Finch was asked to discuss it with Cllr Cook outside of the meeting.**

Page 65. A question was asked regarding new homes and how the council were going to ensure projects were delivered to timetable. Mr Botham and Mr Finch provided a detailed response regarding the positive numbers from Q4, and the additional attention being given to specific sites where progress could be improved. Several issues were identified including the inflationary costs of building and the issues of phosphates from the perspective of landowners, developers and local planning authority. **Action. Mr Botham agreed to obtain an update from Mr Palmer on a number of these issues.**

Page 71. A question was asked regarding numbers of reported fly tipping cases and the action plan to deal with this issue. Mr Hickman and Mr Botham advised of several recent measures undertaken including recruitment to a new post, additional budget, an additional IDV crew and grant funding received for covert cameras and better reporting mechanisms. A more detailed action plan was also being created setting out how the budget would be used. Additional questions were asked regarding the need for further prosecutions. **Action. It was agreed that officers would circulate further information regarding successful prosecutions undertaken and a summary of the recent additional activity in the service area to all members.**

General Point. Mr Howson advised that the content and format of appendix 4 would be altered from Q1 reports onward. Cllr Tod asked that officers consider including additional KPIs in the areas where members were showing more interest and gave the example of Fly-tipping. **Action. Officers to review as above.**

2. **MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING OF THE 24 FEBRUARY 2022
(INCLUDING PREVIOUS QUESTIONS AND ACTIONS)**

The notes of the previous meeting were agreed, and no actions were required.

3. **SUMMARY OF ACTIONS ARISING FROM THIS MEETING**

Members of the panel agreed on the actions as outlined 1. above. It was agreed that any further updates would be circulated to panel members. The panel did not have any further matters that it wished to bring to the attention of the scrutiny committee.

The meeting commenced at 4.00 pm and concluded at 5.30 pm

Chairman

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