

**PERFORMANCE PANEL****Monday, 22 August 2022**

Attendance:

Councillors  
Horrill (Chairperson)Cook  
CraskeCutler  
WestwoodOther members in attendance:

Councillor Thompson

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**1. DETAILED REVIEW OF DRAFT Q1 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.)

**Page 6.** Following the response to a pre-submitted question, a further question was asked concerning the accessibility and transparency of information to all councillors regarding the performance of the Winchester Sport and Leisure Park. In addition to the response contained in appendix 1, Councillor Thompson and Mrs Adey responded with several points including; it had recently been agreed to increase the level of information to the members of the board, the Teams link for the meeting was circulated to all members which enabled attendance, and members could register to speak at the meeting. Mrs Adey also confirmed she would be happy for issues to be raised directly with officers outside of the meeting. **Action. Officers to review the public participation scheme for this Open Forum and confirm that public participation was available at the meeting.**

**Page 8.** A question was asked regarding the detail that would be within the carbon neutrality roadmap. Mr Lincoln advised that the roadmap would provide a range of information, including; the direction of travel, a range of interventions, the metrics, outputs and measurable carbon reductions. It was envisaged that the roadmap would be presented to the December meeting of the Housing & Environment policy committee and then to the cabinet.

**Page 10.** A question was asked regarding the written response to pre-submitted question number 3 and whether the written response could be more definitive regards the running of a food waste trial. Mrs Adey explained why that wording had been used in the written response and that it may be more prudent to do a

live run rather than a trial, subject to a final business case. It was noted that the project Integra workplan would be coming through the decision-making process of the council, and for the purposes of future performance reports would be regarded as a tier two project.

**Page 12.** A question was asked concerning the Ukrainian rematch programme and the council's ability to find sufficient accommodation. Mrs Knight confirmed that the number of Ukrainian guests was high in Winchester and that the local housing market meant that finding alternative accommodation would be challenging. She advised that officers worked closely with hosts and was pleased to advise that a new member of staff had joined WCC to assist with this preventative work

**Page 16.** A question was asked regarding the Housing Company, and whether the proposals remain on track to be presented at the Cabinet Housing Committee in October. Regarding the Winnall Flats development, it was asked whether a fallback position existed in the event of issues with the Housing Company proposals? Mrs Knight confirmed that the Housing Company proposals were currently scheduled for the October Cabinet Housing Committee and that other options would be available if the housing company proposals were not taken forward.

**Page 17.** Following a question regarding the decision concerning Hampshire County Council (HCC) reduction in support for The Beacon, Mrs Knight advised that any proposals would be discussed with the Beacon as part of next year's spending round (2023/24).

**Page 18.** Several questions were asked regarding the housing retrofit works programme. These included understanding the factors that were hindering progress, ie progress on voids, the availability of government grants, Trustmark accreditation and whether sufficient resources and knowledge were available to keep this work going forward, whether members would be briefed on the programme, the impact on residents' heating costs having had their heating system changed and the wider communications plan.

Mrs Knight responded that the programme is an ambitious whole home retrofit and as such the programme has seen delays due to several factors and additional resource requirements were being examined. A member briefing is planned for Autumn 2022. A tenant/leaseholder survey had shown the importance that residents place on carbon reduction and it was acknowledged that more information and education would be necessary. The ongoing impact on residents' energy bills would be monitored.

Mr Lincoln advised that this would form a part of the roadmap exercise, which would identify issues that WCC had a strong influence over and others where our role was to inform, educate etc.

Following the response above, members noted the approach of "whole house retrofitting" that would have the benefit of reducing energy bills over the long term. It was also asked whether too much reliance had been placed on one key supplier which Mrs Knight responded to.

Following a question regarding the carbon neutrality roadmap, Mr Lincoln advised that the roadmap would capture the housing retrofit programme generally, not solely WCC stock. **Action:** Scrutiny to be asked to note the need to ensure the retrofit programme has detailed outcomes and appropriate resources allocated

**Page 20.** Following a question regarding support to the Winchester Business Improvement District (BID), Councillor Thompson advised that it was understood that no further support was required for the 2023-2028 Business Plan and that the BIDs ballot was due to be held in the Autumn of 2022.

**Page 21.** Regarding the pre-submitted question number 22 regarding consultancy costs, it was agreed that a response would be provided following the meeting. **Action. Officers to circulate response.**

**Page 24.** Following a question concerning festivals, Mrs Adey advised that she would clarify when this report would be presented to members. **Action. Officers to confirm committee dates for the above report.**

**Page 26.** Regarding the pre-submitted question concerning the results of the resident's survey, Mr Howson advised that the survey results had been received by the council, and it was envisaged that it would be available in the autumn for wider circulation, although at the time it was still to be determined how this would be made available. **Action. Officers to confirm the process for circulation/engagement as above.**

**Page 28.** A question was asked regarding the variance between the forecast and budget for car parking income and whether the council realistically expected car parking income to return to pre-pandemic levels. Cllr Thompson advised that it was expected to return to at or close to pre-pandemic levels but that a response following the meeting would clarify. **Action. Officers to respond to the panel as above.**

**Page 29.** Further to the pre-submitted question number 26, it was asked whether there was any intention to formally revise the council's budget to ensure sufficient monies to cover the increased costs. Mr Aitken informed that there isn't currently a plan to revise the budget and that the exceptional inflation reserve would be sufficient for this year, he assured panel members that officers were monitoring inflation data and these issues were under constant review. **Action:** In addition to the points raised above, panel members discussed the ongoing scrutiny of risk registers to ensure they were taking account of new risks such as inflationary pressures. Councillors Cutler, Brook and Horrill to consider options for this and to raise it at the next scrutiny committee meeting for wider discussion

**Page 29.** Tree works. A question was asked regarding tree works expenditure, whether there was likely to be even more demand on this budget and whether this was a risk that required to be highlighted in future reports. Further questions were asked regarding the use of contractors to undertake this work and if officers could indicate when the breakdown of costs report would be provided. Mr Lincoln advised that several contractors were available within the procurement framework, he also advised that recent survey work had highlighted that more

work was required than anticipated and that Ash Dieback had been an important factor in this. **Action. Officers to respond regarding the cost breakdown referred to in the written response.**

**Page 31.** Following a question regarding the timescale for final contract closure for the Winchester Sport and Leisure Park, Mrs Adey advised that a further extension period had been negotiated and so this was anticipated to be completed in quarter 2/quarter 3.

**Page 33.** Following several questions regarding the HRA budget, Mr Johnson gave an overview of the Housing Revenue Account including an update on the emerging variances and the capital budget. Overall, Mr Johnson advised that the quarter 1 report was a fair reflection of the overall position. **Action. Officers to consider additional narrative in this section for future reports to show the key points of note akin to the narrative provided in the general fund section.**

**Page 37.** Following a question regarding the quarterly data for LW03, Mr Howson clarified that the YTD figure was displaying the calendar year figure and should be adjusted to align with other YTD periods. **Action. Officers to update as above.**

**Page 48.** Several questions were asked concerning the Bar End Depot, these included understanding the intention with this asset, whether further consultation events were being planned and whether Hobbs were still involved with the site. Mrs Adey advised that officers would produce a timeline for the next meeting of the panel. It was also noted that further consultation was anticipated for November 2022 and that Hobbs were still involved in the project. **Action. Officers to produce a timeline for the next meeting of the panel.**

**Page 55.** Following a question regarding electric pool cars, Mrs Adey advised that the pool car programme was put on hold pending an assessment of post-pandemic working patterns.

**Page 76.** Regarding the Central Winchester Regeneration procurement process, officers were asked to summarise the current position and future steps. Mrs Lyons advised that following full council approval in January 2022 the procurement programme commenced. This entailed initial market engagement before formal procurement in March 2022. Following the deadline for submission, 13 bids were received and following formal evaluation, 3 shortlisted bidders were identified. These 3 bidders were invited into dialogue which would continue through to October 2022. Following this, final submissions would be provided in December 2022, and a formal evaluation would follow to identify a preferred bidder in early 2023.

Following a question regarding the visibility of progress with the Station Approach project, Mr Howson informed that it was currently assessed as a tier 2 project and so would not currently form part of these quarterly reports, however, this project and others were regularly reviewed by the Project and Capital (PAC) Board. **Action. Officers to review whether updates on these projects could be shared with members.**

**Page 82.** A question was asked regarding the Local Plan that a parish council had outstanding queries concerning the working of the settlement hierarchy. Mrs Adey replied that she understood that this issue had been resolved and would enquire with colleagues. **Action. Officers to follow up.**

**Page 93.** Several points were made regarding the Movement Strategy, specifically the dependencies between the major projects and the movement strategy, for example, the extra care provision at Kings Barton. The importance of the Andover Rd was also noted and whether this deserved to be a separate study of its own. Mrs Adey advised that officers recognised the strong dependency between the movement strategy and the key projects, that HCC officers were now included in project board meetings, and that Cllr Humby and Cllr Tod had recently met and agreed on the importance of this work. **Action. Officers to consider the request regarding Andover Road and how members could be better briefed on the interdependencies between the movement strategy and major projects.**

In addition to the points raised above, panel members discussed the ongoing scrutiny of risk registers to ensure they were taking account of new risks. **Action. Councillors Cutler, Brook and Horrill to discuss options for this and if appropriate to raise it at the next scrutiny committee meeting for wider discussion.**

2. **MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING OF 6 JUNE 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 in 1. above. It was agreed that any further updates would be circulated to panel members.

The panel agreed to bring the issue concerning the review of risk registers as outlined in the question regarding page 29 above to the attention of the scrutiny committee.

The meeting commenced at 4.00 pm and concluded at 6.00 pm

Chairperson

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