

THE OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY COMMITTEE

26 February 2018

Attendance:

Councillors:

Learney (Chairman) (P)

Evans (P)
Gemmell (P)
Jeffs (P)
Pearson (P)

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

Others in attendance who addressed the meeting:

Councillors Horrill (Leader with Portfolio for Housing Services), Ashton (Portfolio Holder for Finance), Godfrey (Portfolio Holder for Professional Services), Miller (Portfolio Holder for Estates) and Warwick (Portfolio Holder for Environment).

1. **DISCLOSURE OF INTERESTS**

Councillor Learney declared a personal (but not prejudicial interest) in item 11 (Annual Emergency Planning Report) as she was a member of Littleton and Harestock Parish Council.

Councillor Stallard, as a Hampshire County Councillor with responsibility for Emergency Planning, declared a personal (but not prejudicial interest) in item 11 (Annual Emergency Planning Report).

Councillor Tod declared a personal (but not prejudicial interest) in item 4 (Q3 2017/18 Financial and Performance Monitoring) as he was a member of the Health and Wellbeing Alliance.

2. **MINUTES**

RESOLVED:

That the minutes of meeting held 29 January 2018 be approved and adopted.

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

The Chairman advised that that the next scheduled meeting of the Committee on 9 April 2018 may not be required. In addition, the meeting to be held in

conjunction with the Audit Committee to consider the review of the Constitution would now be held in the new Municipal Year.

RESOLVED:

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

4. **Q3 2017/18 FINANCIAL AND PERFORMANCE MONITORING**
(Report OS193 refers)

Councillor Horrill introduced the Report and together with the other members of Cabinet present, they responded to detailed questions. Councillor Horrill emphasised that following considerable work and new initiatives the Council was in a good position with its individual performance measures. In summary, the following matters were raised.

- (i) The revised date for establishing a Housing Company and clarification of the scope of the company;
- (ii) The anticipated numbers of houses that the Council could provide as private rented under the “City lets” scheme;
- (iii) The progress being made to increase the number of Council houses being built through inclusion in the “Wayfarer” partnership and whether the programme could be accelerated;
- (iv) The progress in reviewing internal governance and was internal governance included within the Risk Register;
- (v) The financial rates of return on the Strategic Asset Purchase Fund;
- (vi) The plans to utilise the General Fund under spend;
- (vii) That importance of a District wide approach to health including the role of the Health and Wellbeing Board and role of the third sector;
- (viii) The accuracy of monitoring air quality and clarification on the emissions monitored;
- (ix) Clarification of the methods for the recording of fly tipping hot spots;
- (x) Points were raised regarding the Heritage Assets in the District and Conservation Areas;

- (xi) The role of the Council to support people into work along with the Council's approach to supporting small and medium sized enterprises;
- (xii) The importance of fibre broadband was raised;
- (xiii) The next steps on the Central Winchester Regeneration project and progress on the Sport and Leisure and Station Approach projects and assurance was sought that the status shown correctly represented the position of the project;
- (xiv) The number of overdue/outstanding internal audit actions and responses to Freedom of Information requests;
- (xv) Ensuring consistency of reporting for the 'RAG' status across the report

Following debate, the Committee welcomed the improvements to the Report's format as information was more readily reviewable.

RESOLVED:

That the Leader and other relevant Portfolio Holders notes the comments of the Committee but that no items of significance to be drawn to the attention of Cabinet.

5. **ANNUAL REVIEW OF INFORMAL SCRUTINY GROUP (ISG)**
RECOMMENDATIONS
 (Report OS195 refers)

This item was withdrawn from consideration at this meeting and would be considered at a future meeting of the Committee

6. **ASSET MANAGEMENT PLAN UPDATE**
 (Oral presentation/presentation available as Appendix to Minutes)

Following an introduction from Councillor Miller, The Corporate Head of Asset Management gave a presentation on the latest position with regard to the Asset Management Plan.

Topics covered included the work to Friarsgate Car Park, Middle Brook Street and Kings Walk, the remodelled Bus Station, proposals for the development of a replacement GP Practice (including a new pharmacy), a small industrial complex at Bishops Waltham Depot, improvements to the Tourist Information Centre and a review of the low cost works undertaken to the City Offices. The operation of the Strategic Asset Purchase Scheme was also explained. It was stated that the income from property holdings had increased by £277,140 per annum.

Following questions from the Committee, the Corporate Head of Asset Management stated that he would investigate improved signposting to public toilets for users of the Bus Station; seating in Kings Walk and that improvements to Abbey House (including the installation of a toilet for the disabled) would be progressed by means of a Portfolio Holder Decision Notice.

It was further explained that Strategic Asset Purchases were considered for investment grade opportunities that complemented the Council's Strategy and Members were encouraged to bring potential investment opportunities to the attention of the Corporate Head of Asset Management. Link to [Asset Management Plan 2016](#).

RESOLVED:

That verbal update be noted.

7. **ANNUAL EMERGENCY PLANNING REPORT**
(Report OS194 refers)

The Chairman welcomed to the meeting Ian Hoult, Head of Emergency Planning and Resilience at Hampshire County Council.

Councillor Warwick introduced the Report and highlighted the progress that had been made in implementing the recommendations of the Flooding Informal Scrutiny Group since 2014. There were now 19 Community Emergency Plans for the Winchester area, largely focussed on the Parished areas and the important work of the Head of Drainage and Special Maintenance was also referred to as was the role of Councillors in an emergency.

The Corporate Director: Services and Ian Hoult spoke of the Service Level Agreement for the delivery of Emergency Planning and the close working between the City and the County Councils.

In reply to Members' questions, the situation in respect of National Trust's City Mill was explained in terms of the Sluice Management Plan, which was designed to assist in the free flow of water through central Winchester. There was a range of works planned to strengthen City Mill and a multi partner approach was taken to water management.

Ian Hoult replied to questions on the Police's response to the risk of cyber attacks following the Wannacry incident in 2017 and Councillor Warwick confirmed that longer term solutions to the central Winchester security measures would be fitting and in keeping with the City and its history.

At the conclusion of debate, the Committee agreed that the Portfolio Holder should have regard to the possibility of access to Resilience Direct being extended to include Parish Councils in order that documentation could be shared

and that consideration also be given to involving the unparished area of Winchester in emergency planning work, for example by inviting the Chair of the Winchester Town Forum to emergency planning community events.

RESOLVED:

That the information provided in the update of the Flooding Informal Scrutiny Group recommendations, the Annual Emergency Planning Report summary and update of flood alleviation schemes be noted and issues be raised with the relevant Portfolio Holder as set out above.

8. **ENVIRONMENTAL SERVICES CONTRACT UPDATE (LESS EXEMPT BUSINESS)**

(Report OS196 refers)

Councillor Warwick introduced the report and highlighted that the grounds maintenance and street care and environmental services contracts expired in 2019 and decisions would need to be taken on future provision including future management arrangements.

The Strategic Director: Services answered Members' questions relating to the potential financial risk to the Council that resulted from not having clarity on the future contractual arrangements and whether this had been addressed in medium and longer term budget planning. Councillor Ashton additionally confirmed that this was the case.

The situation with regard to the current contracts was explained and it was noted that subject to certain conditions a 12 months contract extension could be used if required should the Council wish to undertake full re-procurement.

Consideration was also given to the NORSE joint venture structure option.

At the conclusion of debate, the Committee agreed that the Portfolio Holder should have regard that the Committee was not supportive of the joint venture structure option and was broadly satisfied with the current contracts (although they could be improved) and, although there may be an increase in cost in any new contract, the Committee was content with the course of action being taken by Cabinet and the information before it.

RESOLVED:

That the above comments of the Committee on the content of the report be drawn to the attention of Cabinet.

9. **EXEMPT BUSINESS**

RESOLVED:

1. That in all the circumstances, the public interest in maintaining the exemption outweighs the public interest in disclosing the information.

2. That the public be excluded from the meeting during the consideration of the following items of business because it is likely that, if members of the public were present, there would be disclosure to them of 'exempt information' as defined by Section 100I and Schedule 12A to the Local Government Act 1972.

<u>Minute Number</u>	<u>Item</u>	<u>Description of Exempt Information</u>
##	Environmental Services Contract Update (Exempt Appendices)) Information in respect of which a claim to legal professional privilege could be maintained in legal proceedings (Para 5 Schedule 12A refers)

10. **ENVIRONMENTAL SERVICES CONTRACT UPDATE (LESS EXEMPT BUSINESS)**

(Report OS196 refers)

The Committee considered the content of the exempt appendix, together with further legal advice regarding the services contracts.

RESOLVED:

That the exempt appendix be noted.

The meeting commenced at 6:30pm and concluded at 9:30pm

Chairman