

POLICY AND PERFORMANCE SCRUTINY PANEL

Wednesday, 10 July 2019 (7:00 pm – 9:22 pm)

PRESENT:

Councillor Gomer (Chair); Councillors Broadhurst, Cross, Couldrey, Groves, Jurd, Grajewski and Parker-Jones

Also in attendance: Councillors

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors Allingham, Asman, Doguie and Tyson-Payne

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RESOLVED ITEMS (SUBJECT TO QUESTIONS ONLY)

27. PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

There was no public participation on this occasion.

28. MINUTES

**It was AGREED -**

**That the Minutes of the meeting of the Panel held on 30 May 2019 be confirmed and signed by the Chairman as a correct record.**

29. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

There were no declarations of interest.

30. CHAIR'S REPORT

The Chair did not give a report this time.

31. CLIMATE CHANGE AND BIODIVERSITY

Consideration was given to a presentation by the Cabinet Member for Environment.

During the discussion the panel were keen to:

Understand the issues arising and priorities from the Environment Task and Finish Group which include:

- Aim for Carbon neutrality by 2025 (Council) and 2030 (Borough)
- Bio-diversity - Wilder future, a nature recovery network, natural climate change solutions, biodiversity net gain, greening the built

environment, less intensive management of green areas, verge bio-diversity, pesticide free operations

- Transport, waste collection and recycling – still to be considered. Transport in September, Waste Collection and Recycling in October

Other issues:

- Consider the Council's plan for reducing nitrates levels
- The baseline data for the progress of the existing climate change strategy of using 2007 is misleading as we didn't launch it until 2011/12.
- Trees only one form of biodiversity, need to consider habitat as well.

The Panel asked:

- How the Council's policy about taking agricultural land out of agricultural use reduces nitrates for the purpose of off-setting housing development and are we committed to developing a wider strategy with other solutions?
- What are we as a Council going to do to encourage the borough's population to be 'greener'?

**RESOLVED –**

**That the Panel made the following recommendations:**

- (1) That the next Climate Change Strategy is flexible to enable the Council to respond to changing needs and priorities and is closely monitored by Cabinet and P&P to ensure delivery of climate change targets;**
- (2) To set up a Council working group to ensure that environmental issues remain high on the agenda with a representative from Policy and Performance Scrutiny Committee to sit on the working group; and**
- (3) That the Biodiversity Strategy is reviewed and updated and consideration given to the resource implications to do this.**

## 32. HOMELESSNESS PREVENTION STRATEGY

Consideration was given to a report by the Strategic Lead for Health and Wellbeing outlining the Council's strategy in response to the Homelessness Reduction Act 2017.

The Panel were being asked to scrutinise this strategy ahead of a decision by Cabinet.

**RESOLVED –**

- (1) That an Equality Impact Assessment is completed for the Homelessness Prevention Strategy as it is about equality of opportunity; and**
- (2) To consider the most appropriate way of monitoring the reports of rough-sleeping in the borough.**

33. QUARTERLY CORPORATE AND FINANCIAL MONITORING

Consideration was given to a report by the Head of Performance and Governance, Strategic Planning Manager and Head of Finance.

The report sets out the Council's financial and performance position for the first quarter of 2019/20 and highlighted significant and emerging financial and performance issues. Key Performance Indicators for each service area were outlined in the appendix to the report. This report marked the start of a new way of performance monitoring for the Council and it was likely to evolve over time.

The Panel were being asked to scrutinise this strategy ahead of a decision by Cabinet.

**RESOLVED –**

- (1) That the Panel noted the performance and financial position of the Council in quarter 1; and**
- (2) That the operational performance monitoring is linked to the strategic outcome monitoring and presented together in future.**

34. CABINET FORWARD PLAN

The Panel considered the Forward Plan of Key Decisions. It was noted that there were very few, if any, items on the current Forward Plan for scrutiny.

**It was AGREED that the report be noted.**

35. POLICY AND PERFORMANCE SCRUTINY PANEL'S WORK PROGRAMME

Panel members considered their Work Programme to March 2020.

**It was AGREED that the amended Work Programme be noted.**