POLICY AND PERFORMANCE SCRUTINY PANEL

Thursday, 5 September 2019 (7:02 pm – 9:26 pm)

PRESENT:

Councillor Gomer (Chair); Councillors Broadhurst, Allingham, Asman, Doguie, Groves, Tyson-Payne and Tidridge

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors Cross, Couldrey, Jurd and Grajewski

RESOLVED ITEMS (SUBJECT TO QUESTIONS ONLY)

36. PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

There was no public participation on this occasion.

37. MINUTES

It was AGREED -

That the Minutes of the meeting of the Panel held on 10 July 2019 be confirmed and signed by the Chairman as a correct record.

38. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

There were no declarations of interest in relation to items of business on the agenda.

39. CHAIR’S REPORT

The Chair raised consideration of the formation of a Health and Wellbeing Task and Finish group. Councillors Asman, Tyson-Payne and Tidridge expressed their interest in forming the group.

40. TRANSPORT PORTFOLIO SESSION

Consideration was given to a presentation by Councillor Airey, the Sustainable Transport Planner and the Head of Direct Services. The presentation provided Panel with an overview of the transport portfolio and the progress of work being undertaken in the current financial year.

The Head of Direct Services informed the Committee of the revised date of October 2019 for the optimisation of the waste fleet. The optimisation of the remainder of the fleet is due for completion in Autumn 2020. The Head of Direct Services reported that sustainable vehicles and equipment were being considered. Concern was raised with regards to the use of the weed.
killer ‘glyphosate’. The Head of Direct Services confirmed that this type of weed killer is used as part of the contract with Hampshire County Council and its use will be raised with them directly.

With regards to air quality, the Sustainable Transport Planner confirmed that the Air Quality Action Plan consultation period dates are from 2 September 2019 to 11 October 2019. It was also confirmed that the final Air Quality Action Plan would be presented to Cabinet on 16 January 2020.

Concern was raised with regards to the Bishopstoke Road/Chickenhall Lane Junction Improvements, in particular to congestion and safety. The Committee requested a proposed date for the scheme delivery. The Sustainable Transport Planner confirmed that a date had not yet been set, as it had not been ascertained whether the works would be completed by Eastleigh Borough Council or Hampshire County Council. The Senior Engineering Specialist confirmed that the necessary information to determine this has been requested from Hampshire County Council and should be returned shortly.

The Chair requested that the Policy and Performance Scrutiny Panel become involved in the Cycling and Walking Strategy in Spring 2020, prior to public consultation.

It was confirmed that Air Quality will be returning to the Committee in October 2019.

The Sustainable Transport Planner confirmed that a Sustainable Travel Strategy would be presented to the Committee in the future. The Chair asked whether the Panel could scrutinise the aims of the subsidised bus services tender in the future; and Cllr Airey informed the Panel that it would depend on the timetable set by Hampshire County Council who run the service on behalf of the Council.

The Chair thanked Cllr Airey for his attendance and contribution to the work of the panel. Cllr Airey left the meeting at 8:55pm.

41. UPDATE FROM BREXIT WORKING GROUP

Members of the Brexit Working Group provided the following update that:

- An Action Plan has been created to tackle the implications of a no-deal exit from the European Union. The Plan tackles areas such as staffing and local business;

- That the potential direct implications to the Council and Borough of Eastleigh are considered to be low, overall. However, the significant implications that have been highlighted are on residents, for example difficulty in recruiting people into the care industry, or due to economic factors as a result of a recession.
Southampton Airport is not expecting any significant issues as a result of Brexit.

42. **UPDATE ON PERFORMANCE ISSUES FROM LAST QUARTERLY MONITORING**

(a) **Revenues** – The Head of Economy and Business updated that the previous Revenue and Benefits backlog has been mitigated. The Revenue and Benefits Department is in the process of implementing:

- Increased staffing in Case Management (through recruitment and temporary staffing), and
- A specialised IT module that allows Customer Services to authorise payment instalments directly.

It was also confirmed that a Senior Specialist in Revenues and a Senior Specialist in Council Tax have been recruited. The Head of Economy and Business reported that the backlog should be cleared by the end of the calendar year.

(b) **Bin Collections** – The Head of Direct Services confirmed that missed bin figures are reducing and highlighted that a correlation has been identified between sickness and missed bin collection figures. Other factors contributing to missed bin collections are:

- New housing developments around the Borough;
- Access to estates; and,
- Increased use of the food waste refuse service

A new smaller vehicle has been purchased to mitigate the issue of access to new housing developments. The Local Engagement Team had begun contacting residents to advise them of parking issues in relation to bin collection.

(c) **Democratic Services** – The Corporate Director for Strategy updated that Democratic Services have recruited additional staff to manage and minute Committees.

43. **SCRUTINY TRAINING - DISCUSSION AND OPTIONS**

The Chair proposed that an evening session of scrutiny training be arranged for the members of the Committee. The Panel will receive specific scrutiny training facilitated by the Centre for Public Scrutiny.
44. **CABINET FORWARD PLAN**

The Panel considered the Forward Plan of Key Decisions published on 27 August 2019 and covering the period September 2019 – April 2020.

*It was AGREED*

That the Forward Plan be noted.

45. **POLICY AND PERFORMANCE SCRUTINY PANEL’S WORK PROGRAMME**

Panel members considered their Work Programme to March 2020.

It was proposed that the meeting of 22 October 2019 start at 6:30 pm and not 7:00 pm.

*It was AGREED*

That the amended Work Programme be noted.