

POLICY AND PERFORMANCE SCRUTINY PANEL

Thursday, 18 November 2021 (6:45 pm – 8:20 pm)

PRESENT:

Councillor Gomer (Chair); Councillors Cross, Broadhurst, Duguid, Groves and Kinloch

Also in attendance: Councillors Kyrle

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors Asman, Jurd, Broomfield and Tyson-Payne

RESOLVED ITEMS (SUBJECT TO QUESTIONS ONLY)

202. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

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

203. MINUTES

It was AGREED -

That the Minutes of the meeting of the Panel held on 14 October 2021 be confirmed and signed by the Chair as a correct record.

204. PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

A member of the public spoke on item 7 of the agenda.

205. CHAIR'S REPORT

There was no report from the Chair on this occasion.

206. UPDATES FROM TASK AND FINISH GROUPS

The first meeting of the Equalities task and finish group had met with an action plan being drawn together.

A Task and Finish Group looking at Direct Services use of temporary staff has been formed and progress will be reported to future committees.

Councillor Duguid reported that the One Horton Heath (OHH) Task and Finish Group have held a preliminary session. Further scoping work is being carried out with a further meeting in scheduled for December.

Rental side of landlord/HRA work will be linked to OHH Task & Finish Group.

207. BIODIVERSITY ACTION PLAN AND SPD/NATURE RECOVERY

Cllr Kyrle introduced the item. The Ecologist then gave a presentation to cover the main themes.

The outline content for additional documents to support the implementation of the Biodiversity Strategy, 'the Strategy' were presented for initial comments on content and scope. The Strategy was previously reported to Policy and Performance Scrutiny Panel on 17 June 2021 which highlighted the key issues facing biodiversity, why biodiversity is important, and a framework for delivery. The additional documents presented, the revised Biodiversity Action Plan and Local Nature Recovery Strategy, revised and updated Biodiversity Supplementary Planning Document and a new Sustainable Drainage Systems Supplementary Planning Document will be the main drivers and policy instruments to help support successful implementation of the Strategy.

A member of the public attended to speak on this item and asked the following question:

Mr George Baker is a representative of Friends of Wildern Local Nature Reserve in Hedge End. The report refers to a number of substantial docs. Mr Baker questioned whether there are sufficient resources within the Ecology Team to deliver this.

Cllr Kyrle explained that the Ecology team had been increased to ensure that the ecology actions within the Climate Change Action Plan can be addressed.

Cllr Cross spoke on Hamble Airfield being identified as a priority habitat for the southern area however there is a live planning application that has come forward for the former gravel extraction areas which could impact on the priority areas. The Ecologist responded that the team would like to be included in the consultation on this planning application response. This could impact on the Nature Recovery Strategy.

Cllr Groves noted that motorway and railway lines are important elements of local biodiversity links. The Ecologist agreed and said that the M3 corridor is still of ecological importance. The initial view is that these will still be included as priority areas and can link to strategies of other agencies such as Network Rail.

Cllr Broadhurst suggested that the Monks Brook could be an ideal link. It is also important that the information included in SPDs must be applied and remain at the forefront of decisions.

RESOLVED –

That the Panel:

- (1) provided feedback and comments on the content of the documents outlined to support the implementation of the Biodiversity Strategy;
- (2) agreed to forming a Task and Finish Group to assist Officers developing the documents chaired by Councillor Groves aiming to have membership across the Borough where possible.

The Panel made the following recommendations to Cabinet:

- (3) That Cabinet responds to the Hamble Airfield consultation to raise concerns over the ecological impact of mineral extraction with input from the Ecology Team;
- (4) Ensure Ecology is properly resourced to develop policies and to deliver actions; and
- (5) The KPI review considers KPIs related to Ecology in order that the Council can more accurately monitor performance.

208. CORPORATE PERFORMANCE

The Chief Financial Officer introduced the report which was debated by Members with discussions around the property portfolio, interest rates, performance of pollution monitoring equipment, resourcing of council tax queries, resourcing of the climate change action plan, fly-tipping, planning enforcement, use of emergency accommodation, the Afghan evacuee situation, invoices paid within 10 days and average duration for Councillor cases.

It was suggested that the Health and Wellbeing scorecard layout could be improved.

It was noted that the target for repeat missed bins was consistently missed, but that this figure includes 'non-blame worthy' missed bins. The new waste scorecard will provide more accurate information.

Councillors commented on the Council's low levels of sickness.

RESOLVED –

That the Policy and Performance Scrutiny Panel note the performance and financial position of the Council for the first two quarters of the year making any recommendations to Cabinet as appropriate.

209. CABINET FORWARD PLAN

The Panel considered the Forward Plan of Key Decisions.

It was AGREED that the report be noted.

210. POLICY AND PERFORMANCE SCRUTINY PANEL'S WORK PROGRAMME

Panel members considered their Work Programme.

It was AGREED that the Work Programme be noted.