

POLICY AND PERFORMANCE SCRUTINY PANEL

Thursday, 12 March 2020 (6:45 pm – 7:40 pm)

PRESENT:

Councillor Gomer (Chair); Councillors Cross, Asman, Couldrey, Doguie, Grajewski, Jurd, Tyson-Payne and Tidridge

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors Broadhurst, Duguid, Groves and Pragnell

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RESOLVED ITEMS (SUBJECT TO QUESTIONS ONLY)

77. PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

There was no public participation on this occasion.

78. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

Councillor Grajewski expressed interest in relation to COVID-19 due to links at Hampshire County Council.

79. MINUTES

**It was AGREED -**

**That the Minutes of the meeting of the Panel held on 6 February 2020 be confirmed and signed by the Chair as a correct record.**

Councillor's advised that the minutes from the meeting held on 30 January 2020 were not yet published on the website.

80. CHAIR'S REPORT

The Chair reported that the COVID-19 pandemic; an email had been circulated from Public Health England which offered advice as well as links to use and follow. Due to this, business continuity plans were more prevalent than before and could be a bigger test for IT systems to ensure smooth running of services at all levels – the question needed to be asked as to how quickly all members can be migrated to 365 in order to be up to date on all systems and have access to Teams. A recovery group had been established which included focus on what was to be put in place after to get things back to normal as efficiently as possible.

81. CORPORATE ACTION PLAN

The Panel considered a report by the Strategic Planning Manager outlining the Council's draft Corporate Action Plan 2020/21.

The Panel welcomed the report and the following key points were noted:

- There were actions in the portfolio plans that has not been completed during the year. It was suggested that a review of the progress of the plan needed to be measured against whether actions were being completed.
- Cabinet members were to be encouraged to play a more challenging role for portfolios along with Officers and Management Team.
- The Nitrate Strategy referenced in the CAP was to be approved at Cabinet in March, and therefore could not fit into the work plan for the Panel, but could come forward for post decision scrutiny.
- The Action Plan needed to include more outcomes, detail how to deliver them and with a specific timeframe.
- The climate change emergency was not reflected in all critical areas of the plan.
- Requested that the same format be used across all action plans for continuity.

**RESOLVED –**

**That the Policy and Performance Scrutiny Panel commented on the attached draft Corporate Action Plan for 2020/21.**

82. FEEDBACK FROM TASK AND FINISH GROUPS

The lead Councillor for each Group reported the following:

Environment

It was proposed that the report come back to the Committee prior to going to Cabinet so that recommendations could be made and reported at the next meeting. The Chair reported that the draft report had been circulated by email for comment.

Councillor Tyson-Payne proposed that the recommendations included in the draft report be moved immediately. The Panel agreed to:

- (1) Note the significant activity within the Environment and Transport Portfolios this year, with respect to the corporate action plan and Climate Emergency Declaration, and thanks portfolio holders and officers for their constructive and positive engagement with the Panel;

- (2) Recommend to Cabinet that the governance arrangements around the Climate Change Action Plan be finalised;
- (3) Adopt a regular item in the work plan to scrutinise implementation of, and changes to, the Climate Change Action Plan;
- (4) Recommend to Cabinet the preparation and adoption of an extended Air Quality Action Plan, to include pollutants not covered by the council's statutory air quality obligations, in particular PM2.5 pollution;
- (5) Commend the work to date on carbon impact modelling in reports, and recommend to cabinet that efforts to improve that modelling are continued in earnest;
- (6) Recommend to Cabinet to ensure that carbon emissions and other environmental impacts can be considered, as far as is possible within the National Planning Policy Framework, in planning decisions, possibly through the adoption of an appropriate Supplementary Planning Document;
- (7) Include scrutiny of the Walking and Cycling Strategy, and Public Transport Strategy, in the work plan for 2020/21.

#### Health and Wellbeing

The Wellbeing Project in Hedge End had gone ahead and was to be reviewed in a year to chart challenges and successes. The KPI's for Places Leisure were good. There was a consultative group in place to monitor the progress.

#### 83. SCOPING OF HOUSING TASK AND FINISH GROUP

The Panel received a presentation on the Council's housing programme and areas for policy development.

The Panel agreed to convene a task and finish group to assist with Housing Programme policy development and scrutiny, to focus on the following priorities:

1. Development of policy in the areas of: Green Borough, Climate Change, Health & Wellbeing, Regeneration & Development and Infrastructure.
2. Governance arrangements for Aspect Housing;
3. The congruence of strategic housing programme priorities and overall council aspirations;
4. The number of empty homes in the Borough;
5. "Future proofing" of housing stock and the need to provide housing suitable for residents at all stages of life.

The Housing Working Group were to meet quarterly to monitor the progress. The Chair asked that members consider whether they could commit to being part of the group, and to volunteer later.

84. CABINET FORWARD PLAN

The Panel considered the Forward Plan of Key Decisions. It was noted that:

- Some items had been taken to Cabinet prior to going to Committee to be scrutinised.
- A report was to be carried out with regards to the Corporate Plan and be made available for July's meeting, along with capital review, performance policy, trees and a review of the Constitution.
- An update on complaints was to be given. Although that has been a positive improvement, it was still showing as working outside Service Level Agreement timescales.

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

85. POLICY AND PERFORMANCE SCRUTINY PANEL'S WORK PROGRAMME

Panel members considered their Work Programme until March 2021.

The following list of policies were due for renewal next year and should be scrutinised by the Panel in 2020/21:

- Waste Review (due December 2020)
- Community Safety Review (due February 2021)
- Asset Management
- Sport Active
- Equality Policy

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