

POLICY AND PERFORMANCE SCRUTINY PANEL

Thursday, 10 September 2020 (6:45 pm – 8:34 pm)

PRESENT:

Councillor Gomer (Chair); Councillors Asman, Broadhurst, Couldrey, Duguid, Grajewski, Groves, Jurd, Tyson-Payne and Tidridge

Also in attendance: Councillor Atkinson

Apologies for absence were received from Councillor Cross

RESOLVED ITEMS (SUBJECT TO QUESTIONS ONLY)

106. PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

There was no public participation on this occasion.

107. MINUTES

It was AGREED -

That the Minutes of the meeting of the Panel held on 20 July 2020 be confirmed and signed by the Chair as a correct record.

108. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

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

109. CHAIR'S REPORT

The Chair reported that an invite to attend a Policy and Performance Scrutiny Panel Meeting had been extended to Highways England with regards to the Smart Motorway on the M27. There had been no response from them to date.

The Strategic Planning Manager had compiled a list of policies that were due for renewal along with a timetable. The Chair would arrange a meeting with the Strategic Planning Manager to organise the work plan.

110. UPDATES FROM TASK AND FINISH GROUPS

(a) Housing Task and Finish Group

Councillor Couldrey reported that the Housing Task and Finish Group had met in early July and discussed the Planning Policy with

the Head of Finance. No decisions had been made to date. A further meeting had been scheduled for later in September.

(b) COVID-19 Recovery Task and Finish Group

Councillor Tyson-Payne reported that the Group had met, and Officers had a very structured way of working. A recommendation had been made to explore a work stream for digital inclusion to enable residents who were not connected digitally to be connected. Councillor Tyson-Payne invited suggestions from Members to take back to the Task and Finish Group.

(c) Social Portfolio Policy Task and Finish Group

Councillor Jurd reported that the Group met on the 17 August 2020 and discussed how the priorities fitted in with the Corporate Action Plan. The objectives of the Group were discussed and how to shape the policy moving forward. Attendance was low; however, it was agreed that the slides would be circulated, and another meeting would be arranged at a later date.

It was requested that Democratic Services be present to minute the meetings.

111. CONSTITUTION REVIEW

The Chief Executive introduced the report and highlighted how important the Constitution was to the Council. Contract Standing Orders were under review and would be scrutinised by the Procurement Executive Group (PEG). Financial Regulations were fit for purpose and the Chief Financial Officer had confirmed that major alterations were not required. The aim was to take the Constitution to full Council in November for consideration and approval.

RESOLVED –

That the Policy and Performance Scrutiny Panel noted the contents of the report and made the following recommendations for consideration:

- 1. Strengthen the benefits statement in the PID so that the Council are clear in the value of the exercise;**
- 2. Ensure that the exercise is properly resourced;**
- 3. Have regard to how any changes that ways of working embodied in the Constitution can support the aspirations of the Policy and Performance Scrutiny Panel as described in the 20/21 Action Plan;**

4. Give regard to how the nature of work and meetings have changed whilst recognising the limits and opportunities of online meetings;
5. With any changes to the 'way we work', there must be consideration given to the implications on the Climate Change Emergency; and
6. Consider how to make the Constitution more accessible to residents of various backgrounds.

112. TREE STRATEGY AND SUPPLEMENTARY PLANNING DOCUMENT

Councillor Kyrle, Cabinet Member for the Environment and the Strategic Planning Lead for the Environment introduced the report and explained that the Supplementary Planning Document would sit in the Local Plan when adopted and will set out what the Council expects developers to do regarding trees. A Task and Finish Group was suggested to look at elements in key pieces of work. The draft strategy and Supplementary Planning Document would come back to the Committee in December for review.

RESOLVED –

That the Policy and Performance Scrutiny Panel noted the contents of the report and made the following recommendations for consideration:

1. **Establish a Task and Finish Group to be Chaired by Councillor Tim Groves to do the following:**
 - **Assist with the development of the Tree Strategy and Tree Supplementary Planning Document (SPD);**
 - **Consider congruence of the SPD Strategy, the overall Climate Action Plan and strategies such as enforcement;**
 - **Consider Key Performance Indicators (KPIs) for the strategy to feed into performance management;**
 - **Engage stakeholders and take evidence from external bodies such as The Woodlands Trust; and**
 - **To report to the Committee alongside the pre-decision scrutiny on the SPD and include their deliberations and input.**

113. CABINET FORWARD PLAN

The Panel considered the Forward Plan of Key Decisions.

It was AGREED that the report be noted.

114. POLICY AND PERFORMANCE SCRUTINY PANEL'S WORK PROGRAMME

Panel members considered their Work Programme to March 2021.

It was AGREED that the Work Programme be noted.