

OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY COMMITTEE 2

TUESDAY, 26 SEPTEMBER 2023

Present:

Councillors Sanders (Chair), Buscombe (Vice-Chair), Bullivant, Hall, Hayes, Henderson, Palethorpe, C Parker, P Parker and Parrott

Members in attendance:

Councillors Hook, Keeling, Nutley, Nuttall, Ryan, Steemson and G Taylor

Apologies:

Councillors Peart, Purser and Rollason

Officers in Attendance:

Neil Blaney, Head of Place & Commercial Services

Kay Fice, Scrutiny Officer

Martin Flitcroft, Chief Finance Officer & Head of Corporate Services

Christopher Morgan, Trainee Democratic Services Officer

Sarah Selway, Democratic Services Team Leader & Deputy Monitoring Officer

Jack Williams, Performance Data Analyst

Paul Woodhead, Head of Legal Services & Monitoring Officer to the Council

31. MINUTES

The Chair sought approval of the minutes of the last meeting.

RESOLVED

The Minutes of the meeting held on 11 July 2023 be approved as a correct record and signed by the Chair.

32. DECLARATION OF INTEREST

None.

33. PUBLIC QUESTIONS

None.

34. COUNCILLOR QUESTIONS

None.

35. EXECUTIVE FORWARD PLAN

The Executive Forward Plan listing items to be considered over the next few months was noted, and consideration was given to whether any items were to be

requested to come forward to the Committee prior to being considered by the Executive.

36. COUNCIL STRATEGY Q1 PERFORMANCE MONITORING REPORT

The Chair referred to the agenda reports covering the period quarter 1 from April to June 2023 which updated performance of the Council's Strategy 2020- 2030 T10 priorities, under the auspices of the Committee, providing the detailed performance information used to track its delivery. Members reviewed the performance information and areas where performance was not on track. Details of the programmes, projects and performance indicators with a caution or concern status together with an explanation of the performance and improvement plan was detailed in the appendix of the agenda report.

The Chair requested further information to explain performance indicators (PIs) and how they relate to the Council Strategy to enable a greater understanding of the PIs. This would be set up as a training session.

In response to a Councillor question regarding the Council's performance for processing planning applications for September, the Data Analyst demonstrated the Government's power BI site which enabled the comparison of performance data for District Councils nationally. The filter to compare Devon Councils was applied for a more meaningful comparison, looking particularly at time to process planning applications. It was acknowledged that delays were due to staff resources which reflected the national problem of staff recruitment and insufficient staff.

Councillors were encouraged to use the government site for their areas of interest.

RESOLVED

- a) The report be received, and actions being taken to rectify any performance issues detailed in the agenda report appendix be noted.
- b) A teams meeting be set up for all Councillors to provide a greater understanding of PIs and how they relate to the Council Strategy.

37. WORK PROGRAMME AND TASK AND FINISH GROUPS

The Chair referred to the Committee's work programme and proposed task and finish groups as listed on the agenda to be added to the work programme as discussed at the Overview & Scrutiny workshop held on Thursday 14 September 2023. These were recommended in a priority order: 1 being highest priority and 3 being least priority.

Any reviews across Council services would impact on the work programme and timing of Overview and Scrutiny work. Interim reports would be reported to Committee as work of the task and finish Groups progress. The Committee was reminded that all recommendations for consideration by the Executive may have

an impact on the Medium-Term Financial Plan and long-term financial stability and viability of the Council.

Councillors Bullivant, Hall, C Parker, P Parker, Palethorpe. Parrott volunteered as members of the task and finish groups. Other Councillors were asked to contact Democratic Services to advise if they would like to be involved in the task and finish groups.

RESOLVED

The priority for the reviews be as follows:

- Economy – Mid Term Financial Plan - priority 1
- Business and tourism - car parking - priority 1
- Corporate resources – Assets and Estates – priority 2
- Sport, recreation and culture – Leisure Services - priority 2
- Planning – Planning – priority 3

CLLR S SANDERS
Chair