

STRATA - JOINT SCRUTINY COMMITTEE

TUESDAY, 13 FEBRUARY 2024

Present:

Councillors Levine, Westerman, Knott (Chair) and Clarence

Apologies:

Councillors Hartnell, Leadbetter, patrick, Radford and Smith

Officers in Attendance:

Trish Corns, Democratic Services Officer
Suzanne Edwards, Strata Finance Director
Steve Mawn, Director of IT and Digital Transformation
Christopher Morgan, Trainee Democratic Services Officer

**These decisions will take effect from 10.00 a.m. on Tuesday 20 February 2024
unless called-in or identified as urgent in the minute**

21. MINUTES

It was proposed by Councillor Clarence and seconded by Councillor Levine that the minutes of the previous meeting be agreed as a correct record and signed by the Chair.

A vote was taken.

RESOLVED

That the minutes of the previous meeting be agreed as a correct record and signed by the Chair.

22. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

None.

23. QUESTIONS FROM THE PUBLIC UNDER PROCEDURAL RULES

None.

24. QUESTION FROM MEMBERS OF THE COUNCILS UNDER PROCEDURE RULES

None.

25. SCRUTINY OF STRATA JOINT EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE DECISIONS 30 JANUARY 2024

The Strata Director introduced the item to the committee.

The Committee discussed the use of chat bots for Council websites, licensing costs, and third party costs. It was noted that strata includes non IT costs such as postage and printing.

It was proposed by Councillor Clarence and seconded by Councillor Knott that the decisions made by the Joint Executive Committee are agreed by the Joint Scrutiny Committee.

A vote was taken.

RESOLVED

That the decisions made by the Joint Executive Committee are agreed by the Joint Scrutiny Committee.

The Committee also reviewed the finances of Strata. This included benchmarking costs against other councils and the national average. Finances mentioned included considerable third party costs, moving to the cloud, postage and printing, business transformation, and staffing which included some non-IT staff. Peers from outside councils had been interested in Stratas costs and services. Strata had achieved several millions in savings this year.

In response to a question, it was clarified how much is spent on Microsoft software.

26. APPOINTMENT OF NOMINATED REPRESENTATIVES

Democratic Services introduced the item to the Committee.

It was noted by members of the Committee that 24 hours would be the most appropriate deadline for appointment of a representative with the Chairs' agreement.

It was agreed that members of the Committee should be aware of the virtues of their role and of attending meetings, and that recruitment process of members onto the Committee should be considered in the future.

RESOLVED

That as per the existing Terms of Reference, Committee Members' are able to nominate representatives up to 24 hours before a meeting in their absence.

The meeting started at 3.35 pm and finished at 4.15 pm.

Chair
Cllr Paul Knott

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