

Scrutiny Committee

Minutes of meeting held in Remote Meeting (On Teams) on 14 September 2020 at 6.00 pm.

Present:

Councillor Tony Freebody (Chair).

Councillors Peter Diplock, Jane Lamb, Robin Maxted, Pat Rodohan and Robert Smart.

Officers in attendance:

Millie McDevitt (Performance and Programmes Lead), Peter Finnis (Assistant Director for Corporate Governance), Rosalind Irving (Projects and Performance Analyst), Nick Peeters (Committee Officer) and Andrew Clarke (Deputy Chief Finance Officer (Financial Planning)).

1 Minutes of the meeting held on 3 February 2020

Matters arising from the minutes of the previous meeting dated 3 February 2020:

- Councillor Smart requested that the 'heat' map of houses of multiple occupancy in the borough requested at the previous meeting be made available to the Committee.

The minutes of the meeting held on 3 February 2020 were submitted and approved and signed as a correct record by the Chairman.

2 Apologies for absence / declaration of substitute members

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors Sabri and Burton.

3 Declarations of Disclosable Pecuniary Interests (DPIs) by members as required under Section 31 of the Localism Act and of other interests as required by the Code of Conduct

There were none.

4 Questions by members of the public

There were none.

5 Urgent items of business

There were none.

6 Right to address the meeting/order of business

There were no requests.

7 Provisional revenue and capital outturn 2019/20

Andrew Clarke, Deputy Chief Finance Officer, presented the report to Members. During discussion the following points were highlighted:

- In relation to borrowing costs, in future, revenue income to be generated from capital schemes funded from borrowing would be shown within the services to which it related.
- The figures in the report for the transfer of reserves were included to explain how the transfer took place. More detail on the individual elements of the transfer figures would be provided following the meeting. £1.7 million had been budgeted for as part of the reserve transfer in 2019/2020. However, the reserves would not be sufficient to cover projected losses in the current year and discussions with the Department for Housing, Communities and Local Government on opportunities to address the Council's current and future financial position were ongoing. The Council's Corporate Management Team will be undertaking a review of all council services as part of the 2020/21 budget setting process, taking on board the significant impact the Pandemic is having on the Council's financial position.
- Income had reduced by £250,000 from the previous financial year and could be attributed to the Pandemic. The total cost to the Council was approximately £300,000. The Council faces a significant financial challenge as a result of the Covid pandemic.

RESOLVED to note the update

8 Corporate Performance Quarter 1 2020-21

Millie McDevitt, Performance and Programme Lead and Rosalind Irving, Project and Performance Analyst, presented the report. During discussion the following points were highlighted:

- The programme for visits and inspections of licenced houses of multiple occupancy (HMOs) had resumed and the Housing Team was undertaking as many inspections as it could within the Covid guidelines.
- New performance indicators had been introduced for Rough sleeper numbers during the Covid period and included those that were newly accommodated within each month, and those that had refused accommodation over the quarter.

It was agreed that responses would be provided to the following points:

- Whether the percentage of household waste sent for reuse, recycling and composting included recyclables refused because of contamination.
- Updates on progress towards the Council's projects including the Devonshire Park redevelopment, the Sovereign Centre review and increasing the Bandstand renovations.

RESOLVED to note the report.

9 Forward Plan of Decisions

The Chair, Councillor Freebody, introduced the Forward Plan of Decisions. Members requested that and update on the Council's Climate Change and Sustainability Strategy provided to the Committee.

RESOLVED to note the Forward Plan of decisions.

10 Scrutiny Work Programme

The Chair, Councillor Freebody, introduced the Scrutiny Committee's Work Programme.

Members requested that the Council's Climate Change and Sustainability Strategy be included on the Committee's Work Programme.

RESOLVED to note the Scrutiny Committee Work Programme.

11 Date of the next meeting

RESOLVED: that the date of the next meeting of the Scrutiny Committee is scheduled for Monday, 2 November via Teams.

The meeting ended at 7.00 pm

Councillor Tony Freebody (Chair)