

## **Policy and Corporate Resources Overview and Scrutiny Committee**

**Monday 22<sup>nd</sup> March 2021.**

Present- Councillor Dave Harling, in the Chair, Councillors Afzal, Bateson, Connor, Slater, Liddle and

Also Present- David Fairclough, Director of HR, Legal and Corporate Services.

Mandy Singh, HR

Jenna Russet Knott, HR

Kim Derbyshire, HR

Asad Laher, Head of Legal.

Paul Conlon, Democratic Services.

### **1. Welcome and Apologies**

The Chair welcomed those present to the meeting.

### **2. Declaration of Interests**

There were no declarations of interest on items on the agenda.

### **3. Minutes of the meeting held on 21<sup>st</sup> December 2020.**

The minutes of the meeting held on 21<sup>st</sup> December 2020 were submitted.

**RESOLVED-** That the minutes of the meeting held on 21<sup>st</sup> December 2020 be approved as a correct record and signed by the chair.

### **4. Health and Wellbeing and Sickness Absence.**

The Committee received a presentation on the work that was being undertaken to keep people safe and secure. The Committee had looked at the issue of wellbeing, sickness and absence at previous meetings and as agreed looked at comparisons with other authorities and also what was being done to promote wellbeing within the authority. The Committee also looked at the way that the service had dealt with the challenges that had arisen from the covid19 pandemic together with the work done by health and safety to maintain safe working environments, especially in schools.

The Committee noted that up to now been no cross infections within the Council employees which meant that the work practices identified by Health and Safety were being followed and were working. The Committee noted the exceptional levels of work that had gone into making schools and work places safe and the work to ensure that the wellbeing of staff was paramount was applauded.

**RESOLVED-** That the work of the HR Service to keep residents and staff safe and secure during the Pandemic be applauded and the thanks of the committee for all the hard work that had gone in to this be noted.

## **5. Digital Strategy.**

The Committee looked at the vision for the Council's digital strategy. The strategy set out a vision for three areas, the Borough, the Customer Experience and the needs of a high performing Organisation. It had been intended to launch the strategy last summer however given the pandemic had meant that different ways of working and a number of strands of the vision had been delivered early to support the needs of the organisation. The strategy sought to deliver better digital access, a better connected place and digital skills.

Members of the Committee drew attention to the need to include all citizens in the delivery of the vision as there were still considerable numbers of residents who were either not confident in the use of digital technology or were not able to engage digitally. The Committee were informed that the vision aimed to ensure that no one was left behind and that ability to engage digitally would not deny access to services.

### **RESOLVED-**

That the Committee continue to look at the roll out of the digital strategy and how this enhanced the services delivered by the Council as part of the work programme for the new municipal year.

## **6. Call-in Procedure.**

The Committee looked at the procedure followed during a call-in and the procedure outlined in the constitution. The Committee recalled that the Standards Committee had agreed that a review be carried out to ensure that the best practice was being followed. Members agreed that a Task Group be established to look at the issue and examples of best practice from other authorities. The Committee will consist of a politically balanced group of members including representation from the Standards Committee, People and Place Committees and the Chair of the Call-in Committee together with representation from this Committee. The Task Group would meet in the new municipal year and report back in the autumn.

### **RESOLVED-**

That a task group as suggested by the Committee to look at the call-in process and procedure be approved.

## **7. Progress of the Overview and Scrutiny Committees.**

The Committee were updated on the work of the People and Place Overview and Scrutiny Committees. The Committees had continued their work on the

Councils response to the Covid19 pandemic and protecting the community and residents of the borough.

**RESOLVED-** that the work of the People and Place Overview and Scrutiny Committees be noted.

Chair at the meeting where the minutes were signed.....

Date.....