

## **POLICY AND CORPORATE RESOURCES OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY COMMITTEE**

**MONDAY 20<sup>th</sup> MARCH 2023**

Present: Councillor Humphrys-in the Chair, Councillors Connor, Floyd, Liddle, Hussain, Taylor, Slater, J., and Slater, N.

Also present- Paul Conlon, Democratic Services

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

The Chair welcomed those present to the meeting. The Chair outlined that it had been his intention to receive progress on the Corporate Priorities at this meeting however they had not yet been submitted to the Executive Board for consideration. The Committee received an outline of the process which was used to review the progress and that the performance information would be submitted to the meeting of the committee in June.

Apologies for absence were received from Councillor Rawat.

### **2. Minutes of the Meeting held on 19<sup>th</sup> December 2022.**

The minutes of the meeting held on 19<sup>th</sup> December 2022 were submitted.

**RESOLVED-** that the minutes of the meeting held on 19<sup>th</sup> December 2022 be approved as a correct record and signed by the chair.

### **3. Declarations of Interest.**

There were no declarations of interest made at the meeting.

### **4. Review of the Work of the Overview and Scrutiny Committee for the Municipal Year.**

The Committee received a report outlining the work of the four overview and Scrutiny Committees for the Municipal Year 2022/23. The chairs of the Committees outlined the work of their Committees and the issues they had scrutinised.

#### People Overview and Scrutiny Committee.

Councillor Liddle, Chair of the People Overview and Scrutiny Committee (until 8/2022) and Children and Young People Overview and Scrutiny Committee outlined the early work carried out by the Committee before and after being amended by the Council Forum.

The Committee has a long standing connection with the Youth MP and Forum and has continued this throughout the year. The MP and representatives of the forum had attended every meeting of the Committee and kept members updated on their work

and issues being considered. The Committee looked at the major issues facing the delivery of services for children in the borough including-

- Ofsted review of Children's Services
- Achieving Excellence Board and Improvement Board
- Children's Safeguarding
- Early Years Speech and Language and progress of the project.
- Self-Evaluation Framework
- Children's Attainment

In response to a members question regarding the extra resources provided to improve Children's Services the Committee were informed that the OSC would hold the Improvement Board to account for how the services had been improved with the increased resources. The Committee were also informed of the work that was ongoing to seek to retain social workers in the borough.

Councillor Brian Taylor, Chair of the Place Overview and Scrutiny Committee outlined the work of the Place Committee and the progress that they had made on their work programme.

The Committee had looked at the following issues during the year-

- Progress of the Household Recycling Centre
- The provision for Burials and Cemeteries in the borough
- Flooding in the borough and the steps taken to mitigate this
- The new approach to procurements and leveraging of Social Value.
- Section 106 contributions.

Members discussed the topics that had been the subject of review and value that had been added through this work. The chair undertook to forward the presentation on section 106 contributions to members to ensure that the information on the policies and the way we can use contributions is transparent for all members. Following a question from a member relating to disabled play facilities in the south of the borough the chair undertook to look at this as part of the work programme for the next municipal year.

Councillor Jacqueline Slater, Chair of the Health and Social Care Overview and Scrutiny Committee outlined the work of the Committee so far. The Committee had met twice with a third meeting on the 27<sup>th</sup> March following its establishment in July. The Committee had looked at the following issues as part of its work-

- Terms of Reference and scope of the Committee.
- The Integrated Care Board
- Developments in Adult Social Care
- Re:refresh and Leisure Centres
- Care homes Assurance in the Borough
- The Outcome of the Care Quality Assurance peer challenge day.

The Chair of the Policy and Corporate Resources Overview and Scrutiny Committee, Councillor Tony Humphrys outlined the work that had been undertaken as part of this Committee work programme. The Committee had looked at –

- RIPA activity and the procedural guide.
- Progress against the Corporate Plan

- Development of the General Fund Revenue Budget 2023/24
- Progress of the Councils Capital and Revenue Budget.
- The Councils Digital Strategy
- The Accommodation Strategy
- Revenue budget Monitoring.

In response to a question relating to the effectiveness and engagement of members in scrutiny attention was drawn to the scope of the items that the Committee had considered which were the major issues facing the council at this moment in time and were the major strategies being developed to deal with real issues. A snap shot of some of the successes of the Committees were outlined and it was noted that there was a need to disseminate to members information about these major pieces of work and how they needed to engage with the processes.

The Committee discussed a number of issues/ points arising from the review of the work of the Overview and Scrutiny Committee during the year-

- a. The establishment of the Health and Social Care Overview and Scrutiny Committee had happened to late in the year and this had impacted on the work of the People Overview and Scrutiny Committee and impeded progress.
- b. The splitting of the membership of the People Overview and Scrutiny Committee had led to small numbers of members on each of the resulting Committee which had caused issues with setting up task groups etc.
- c. Executive Members had fully engaged with the scrutiny process and attended whenever requested.
- d. Children and Young People Overview and Scrutiny Committee were to receive assistance/guidance next year from the LGA on scrutiny.
- e. Four meetings a year are not enough meetings for the Committee to make real progress and develop their work programmes.
- f. There is a need for Policy and Corporate Resources Overview and Scrutiny Committee to consider where joint work is needed and would add value and also to identify any gaps in the work of the Overview and Scrutiny Committees.
- g. The Overview and Scrutiny Committees need to be better resourced and members supported in their work

**RESOLVED-**

1. That the Overview and Scrutiny Committees be thanked for their dedicated work during the year.
2. That the officers who have been involved in the scrutiny process during the year be thanked for their assistance, guidance and support.
3. That the Chair and Vice Chair be requested to meet with the Leader of the Council to take the points now made by the Committee for the development of the Overview and Scrutiny Process for the next year.

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

Date.....