

PLACE OVERVIEW & SCRUTINY COMMITTEE

MONDAY 19th March 2019

PRESENT - *Councillors: Harling (Chair), Connor, Liddle, Colin Rigby, Shorrocks, Neil Slater, Whittle,*

ALSO IN ATTENDANCE –Councillor Kay- Executive Member Denise Park, Lee Kinder, David Fairclough Paul Fleming, Corrine McMillan Mandy and Paul Conlon,

1. Welcome and Apologies

Following introductions the Chair welcomed Members to the meeting and received apologies from Councillor Mahmood and Groves.

2. Minutes of meetings held on 10th December 2018

RESOLVED – That the minutes of the meeting held on 10th December 2018 were agreed as a correct record and were signed by the Chair.

3. Declarations of Interest

There were no declarations of interest received.

4. Sickness Absence and Wellbeing

The Committee reviewed its work on the topic and the information that they had received to date on the Council's sickness and absence policies and the implementation of these. The Committee discussed the use of agency staff within services that required continuity and support. The also looked at the support the Council gave to the wellbeing of employees and the progress on training of mental health champions within the organisation. In relation to the trends of absenteeism the Committee were informed that long term absences were coming down whilst short term absences were more challenging.

The Committee would wish to put forward the following recommendations-

RESOLVED-

1. That the Director of HR Legal and Corporate Services be requested to provide information to the Committee on the comparisons with other

authorities similar in composition to BWD on access to Health and Wellbeing services offered by the Council to improve attendance.

2. That the Committee receive information on work of Mental Health Champions and how the Council supports them in their work and furthering support for employees with Mental Health issues.

3. That the comparison figures for sickness absence be forwarded to Members of the Committee to enable comparisons to be made on the effectiveness of remedial measures.

4 That the Executive Member be requested to consider the implications for the workforce and the Council on the introduction of new technology and smarter/agile working and report to a future meeting of the Committee.

5. Asset Management and Disposal Policy.

The Committee received an update and presentation on the policy and strategies behind the Asset Managements and Disposal Policy. The Committee were informed of the direction of the strategy was to encourage and foster growth and development in the Borough creating employment and opportunities for residents and attracting business to the Borough..

RESOLVED-

1. That the proposed Growth Strategy and the enhanced relationship with the Asset Management and Disposal Policy as a tool for regeneration and investment in the Borough be supported.

2. That the report on the growth strategy be submitted to this Committee when available to inform the work of Members on the way forward for asset management and disposal of surplus land and property.

3. That the Committee receive regular updates on the accommodation strategy for the Council services and in particular the Town Hall and Extension refurbishment and associated relocations.

6. Digital Strategy

The Committee were updates on the current developments of the Councils Digital Strategy. The Committee had previously been looking to ensure that the strategy and way forward was as inclusive as possible and ensuring that all sections of the community had equal access and opportunity to integrate with the Council in a digital way.

The Committee reviewed the work undertaken in the task group and also the information that had been provided subsequent to this.

RESOLVED-

1. That the direction of the digital strategy in seeking to ensure that the needs of hard to reach groups are addressed and that we continue to improve access to services digitally for all citizens of the Borough be supported.
2. That the strategy be recommended for continued review by the Committee in the new municipal year.

signed.....

Chair of the meeting at which the Minutes were signed

Date.....