

OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY COMMITTEE

Date of Meeting: 18th June 2018

Present: Cllr Lythgoe (Chair)
Cllrs Janet Eaton, Johnson, Kempson, Kenyon, Morris, Procter,
Robertson and Stansfield

In attendance: Sam Plum, Director of Communities
Nicola Hopkins, Planning Manager
Jenni Cook, Committee Officer

Also Present: Cllrs A. Barnes, Ashworth, Essex and Lamb
0 press
2 public

1. APOLOGIES FOR ABENCE & SUBSTITUTIONS

- 1.1 Apologies for absence had been received from Cllr L. Barnes (Cllr Stansfield substituting) and Cllr Gill.

2. MINUTES OF THE LAST MEETING

Resolved:

That the minutes of the meeting held on 5th March 2018 be approved as a correct record.

3. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

- 3.1 There were no declarations of interest.

4. URGENT ITEMS OF BUSINESS

- 4.1 The Chair confirmed that there were no urgent items of business.

5. PUBLIC QUESTION TIME

- 5.1 The Chair noted that he would allow questions to be asked on each item as it was discussed.

6. CHAIR'S UPDATE

- 6.1 There were no communications from the Chair.

7. QUARTER 4 PERFORMANCE REPORT (JANUARY TO MARCH 2018)

- 7.1 The Chair introduced the report which was an overview of performance during quarter 4 and noted that the Planning Manager was present and invited questions/comments regarding planning's targets:-
- Delivery of affordable housing target – a definition of affordable housing from a planning perspective was given and it was noted that Strategic Housing also had a part to play.
 - Viability of affordable housing was considered by developers. Changes at a national level were being proposed.
 - Work was ongoing on the Local Plan and once this was underway, more work could be done on the 5-year housing land supply document.
 - Discussion took place on empty properties and empty commercial properties and the number of takeaways in Haslingden. It was noted that LCC were carrying out a piece of work regarding takeaways and public health.
- 7.2 It was noted that the performance report was still a work in progress and the Chair would meet with the HR Manager and service area managers to discuss further amendments, particularly with regards to the project section of the report.
- 7.3 Members and members of the public commented as follows:-
- It was queried whether the quarterly reports should also go to Audit and Accounts Committee to consider the risk part of the report.
 - Complaints and compliments were discussed and the wording in the covering report was confusing. It was noted that officers may not be forthcoming in reporting compliments. A full complaints report was usually brought to O&S annually.
 - Discussion took place regarding fly-tipping targets and the Director of Communities explained the resources that were available. Work was being undertaken to provide more capacity potentially via a private company. Land ownership was discussed with regards to access to the Land Registry.
 - Funds raised by the brown bins were discussed, however it was noted that this had been affected by the ending of cost-share with LCC.
 - The Director of Communities agreed to take up a matter with Councillor Stansfield directly.

Resolved:

1. That the report is noted.
2. That the PPU Manager would be asked to consider a more targeted anti fly-tipping campaign.

8. ANNUAL LIGHT REFRESH OF THE CORPORATE STRATEGY 2017-2021

- 8.1 The Chair welcomed the changes to the Corporate Strategy and the addition of officer names to the 'Plan on a page' document. The Director of Communities summarised report which was a light refresh of the corporate strategy and which proposed minor changes:-
- Greater focus has been given to priority 2.
 - Statistical information regarding the council has been updated.

- The strategy had been updated with project officer names added to the 'Plan on a page'.

8.2 Members commented on the report as follows:-

- The inclusion of officer names and a simple plan on a page was welcomed.

Resolved:

1. That the changes in the annual light refresh of the Corporate Strategy 2017-2021 are recommended to Full Council.
2. That all future minor amendments to the Strategy are delegated to the Chief Executive in consultation with the Portfolio Holder.

9. OVERVIEW & SCRUTINY ANNUAL REPORT 2017/18

9.1 The Chair introduced the Annual Report for 2017/18 and noted that it was a fair reflection of the year's work.

9.2 Members commented on the report as follows

- O&S had carried out important work over the year.
- Thanks were noted to the officers who had supported the scrutiny function.

Resolved:

1. That the Annual Report 2017/18 is noted and recommended to Full Council for approval.

10. OVERVIEW & SCRUTINY WORK PROGRAMME 2017/18

10.1 The Chair introduced the Work Programme and noted that this document was fluid and was designed to change across the year.

10.2 Members commented on the report as follows:-

- It was noted that Transdev had agreed to attend O&S Committee in March 2019.

Resolved:

1. That the Work Programme 2018/19 is noted and recommended to Full Council for approval.

11. TASK AND FINISH GROUP REPORTING PROCESS

11.1 The Chair introduced the report which outlined new proposals for the Task and Finish Group process. The proposals were designed to speed up the time it took from completion of a Task and Finish Group to the Cabinet response.

11.2 Members commented on the report as follows:-

- The new procedures were welcomed and it was noted that the Scrutiny in a Day concept had been successful.

Resolved:

1. That the revised Task and Finish Group Reporting Procedures are recommended to Full Council for approval.
2. That Governance Working Group and Full Council agree the Constitution amendments in relation to the new process.

12. TASK AND FINISH GROUP REPORT – EXCESS WINTER DEATHS

12.1 The Chair introduced the report which outlined the work of the Excess Winter Deaths Task and Finish Group. The Group had piloted the 'Scrutiny in a Day' concept which had brought all relevant parties to the table on one day. The investigation had looked into the initially high number of winter deaths in Rossendale reported for 2015/16 and had found that there was no specific issue. However, there was some work to be done to work to NICE guidelines. The outcome of the investigation had resulted in the Rossendale Strategic Health Partnership agreeing to co-ordinate the creation of a Health and Wellbeing Action Plan.

12.2 It was noted that there was an error in paragraph 3.6 of the report:-

Councillor Ashworth was Chair of the Health and Wellbeing Partnership and Rossendale Leisure Trust Chaired the Strategic Health Partnership.

12.3 Members discussed the report as follows:-

- Partnership working was taking place and it was opted to bring a report from the Strategic Health Partnership back to O&S around September time.
- Once the reports were complete, a statement could be done for the press regarding this work.
- Fuel poverty was an issue in Rossendale and the uptake for the cosy homes grants had been low.
- Discussion took place regarding vulnerable residents in the winter months, particularly in extreme weather conditions. Work had been undertaken a few years ago to identify individuals via the assisted bin collection lists and this information had been shared with relevant agencies. GDPR would now make any such collaboration difficult; however works were ongoing to establish a 'preparing for winter' plan.

Resolved:

1. That the work carried out by the Excess Winter Deaths Task and Finish Group is noted.
2. That the report is put before Cabinet Members for their comments.

13. THE FORWARD PLAN

13.1 The Committee and Member noted that the Forward Plan had not been re-published since 5th June 2018. O&S Committee were due to see several items on the plan during the course of 2018/19.

The meeting started at 6.30pm and finished at 7.30pm