

OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY COMMITTEE

Date and Time: Tuesday, 16 July 2019 at 7pm

Place: Council Chamber, Civic Offices, Fleet

Present:

COUNCILLORS

Axam, Collings, Crookes (Chairman), Dorn, Drage (from 7.19pm), Davies, Farmer, Lamb, Smith, Wildsmith

In attendance: Cheryl Edwards, Chief Executive, Inclusion Hampshire

Councillors: Cockarill, Neighbour, Oliver

Officers Present:

Daryl Phillips	Joint Chief Executive
Phillip Sheppard	Highways Team Manager
Daniel Hawes	Planning Policy Manager

19 MINUTES

The minutes of the meeting of 18 June 2019, subject to the following corrections, Inclusion Hampshire confirmed and signed as a correct record:

“ Councillor Neighbour attended and participated at the meeting of 18 June 2019.”

20 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies had been received from Councillor Worlock.

21 CHAIRMAN’S ANNOUNCEMENTS

The Chairman announced that Cheryl Edwards, Chief Executive of Inclusion Hampshire was attending to discuss performance against SLA.

The Chairman also announced that he proposed to adjust the Committee agenda to bring forward the item of Service Plans after item 27 (Civic Parking Enforcement and Traffic Management Agency).

22 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

None declared.

23 PUBLIC PARTICIPATION (ITEMS PERTAINING TO THE AGENDA)

None.

24 INCLUSION HAMPSHIRE

Cheryl Edwards, Inclusion Hampshire, attended for discussion on performance against SLA.

Inclusion Hampshire is an independent charity which delivers alternative education and emotional well-being services for vulnerable young people and young people with additional needs aged 13 -18 in North Hampshire. Inclusion Hampshire currently work with, and accept referrals from, over 16 schools, academies and colleges.

The aim is to provide educational and personal development programmes within safe and inclusive environments, for young people aged 13-18 who, for a variety of different reasons, currently cannot access or positively maintain their place at school or college.

Inclusion Hampshire's team of teachers, counsellors, therapists and support workers, work intensively with young people on a one to one basis or in small groups to empower them to enable change, achieve qualifications, address personal mental health and improve emotional well-being.

Inclusion Hampshire has sites in Chineham (Basingstoke), Hook and Fleet within North Hampshire. Its centres are different in size and varied in what they deliver to meet the different needs of learners.

DECISION

The Committee thanked Cheryl Edwards for a very informative and thought provoking presentation.

25 FEEDBACK FROM SERVICE BOARDS

Councillors reported on the Environment & Tech Services Service Board.

DECISION

The Joint Chief Executive add to the work programme a rolling programme of Heads of Service attendance at Overview and Scrutiny Committee.

26 STATUTORY GUIDANCE ON OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY IN LOCAL AND COMBINED AUTHORITIES

Committee members took the opportunity to clarify anything that was not clear to them from the new statutory guidance recently issued by the Government on Overview and Scrutiny in local authorities.

DECISION

The Joint Chief Executive would look at the potential of arranging a workshop in the autumn for all Members of the Council to help them be aware of the purpose of overview and scrutiny, what effective scrutiny looks like, how to conduct it effectively and the benefits it can bring.

27 CIVIL PARKING ENFORCEMENT AND TRAFFIC MANAGEMENT UPDATE

The Committee discussed the latest position with regard to the terms offered by Hampshire County Council (HCC) for the retention of the Civil Parking Enforcement and Traffic Management Agencies. In this regard it was noted that HCC had ruled out any potential for the Council to share, even back office services, with any other authority.

The background to the report was that for many years the Council had carried out on-street civil parking enforcement, which included residents' permit parking zones, and traffic management functions on behalf of Hampshire County Council (HCC). In 2018 HCC served two years notice to end Decriminalised Parking (On-street parking) arrangements.

HCC's proposals were aimed at modernising the on-street parking service across Hampshire, as part of its Transformation to 2019 savings plans. The new agency agreements sought to ensure full cost recovery for the on-street parking service across the county by:

- 1) Ensuring residents parking permit charges cover the costs of permit administration, scheme management, IT costs, enforcement time and the maintenance of the associated signs and lines.
- 2) The introduction of on-street 'pay and display' parking primarily in some areas currently designated as limited waiting.

The Council were asked to decide whether to continue with the delivery of on-street parking enforcement and traffic management, under the terms of the revised agreements, or to hand back these services to Hampshire County Council.

In February 2019 Cabinet had discussed the timescale for reaching full cost recovery, and noted that it may require a reduction in the costs associated with enforcement or require substantial increases in income. It was further discussed that the Council would not want to enter into the agreement if HCC held any expectation that the Council would make payment to HCC in lieu of 'full cost recovery'.

DECISION

That the following be recommended to Cabinet:

- 1 The approval of the terms for the new agency agreements will prevent Hart from entering into shared service agreements for the provision of Traffic Management and Civil Parking Enforcement.
- 2 No amendment should be made to the recommendations agreed by Cabinet in February 2019.

28 SERVICE PLANS

Overview and Scrutiny had been asked to make recommendations to Cabinet on the draft Planning Policy Service Plan 2019/20, and also to make comments on the proposed revised format and content of Service Plans.

The Committee discussed the issues associated with resources to deliver the draft Planning Policy Service Plan including monitoring.

In terms of presentation the Committee was broadly pleased with the format of the proposed Service Plan template. A couple of suggestions were made about:

- Table I: This is possibly too complicated - it mixed: Justification, Targets and Reporting in very deep columns. The suggestion was that the “Link to Corporate Plan” is split out and shown as a matrix. The remaining table would be better “landscape” to try and capture each section on a page.
- The Green, Red, Amber designations should be defined.
- An indication of workload and/or frequency would be helpful (to give context).
- Completion dates are a mix of “Need by” and “Expected” depending on the item, showing this difference will help to focus on what is critical and what is more informative.
- Should be clearer that “Performance” = on-going work and “Targets” = single events. i.e. it is impossible to breakdown project work into measurable quarterly milestones so progress on projects may need to be separated out.

The Chairman sought some clarity as to the background to the project relating to supporting a Hampshire Growth Bid. The Joint Chief Executive confirmed that this was an initiative being promoted by two local Hampshire MPs (Ranil Jayawardena and Kit Malthouse) to encourage local authorities across Hampshire to work in partnership together to see if they could secure significant Government to support infrastructure delivery

DECISION

- 1 That the draft Planning Policy Service Plan for 2019/20 be recommended for approval by Cabinet
- 2 That Committee, subject to adjustments, recommends the revised model template for Service Plans.

29 TREASURY MANAGEMENT OUTTURN

Committee Members considered the Annual report on Outturn and noted the report.

DECISION

Overview and Scrutiny had no comments to make on the report.

30 2018/19 REVENUE AND CAPITAL OUTTURN

Members considered the Annual report on Capital Outturn.

Members found the figures attached at Appendix I to the report incomprehensible and without a clear and transparent auditable link to the main Report's recommendations (the reported £369k underspend) or how the Revenue Budget Carry forwards as set out in paragraph 6.1 had been compiled. It was agreed that the report to Cabinet would require much greater transparency and clarity, and the decision was amended to reflect this.

DECISION

- 1 The Committee wished it to be noted its disappointment with the format, and in particular the Appendix attached to the report because it appeared incomprehensible and without a clear and transparent auditable link to the main Report's recommendations (the reported £369k underspend) or the Revenue Budget Carry forwards as set out in paragraph 6.1). The Committee therefore could not give a firm view as to the accuracy of the Outturn position and so had to rely upon the assurances given to the Committee by the Section 151 Officer.
- 2 That subject to the caveat in 1 above, it be recommended to Cabinet that the 2018/19 outturn position of an under spend of £369,250 for the General Fund Revenue Account be noted.
- 3 It be recommended to Cabinet that the £369,259 underspend be placed in the Commercialisation Reserve.
- 4 That subject to the caveat in 1 above, it be recommended to Cabinet that the 2018/19 outturn position for Capital expenditure be noted.
- 5 It be recommended to Cabinet that in the absence of a clear and transparent auditable link between the information supplied at Appendix I and the items listed for Carry Forward in para 6.1 it is difficult to reconcile the project listed within para 6.1 and the 2018/2019 revenue budget agreed in February 2018. However, subject to clarification, in principle the carry forward of the unspent revenue budgets as detailed in paragraph 6.1 be supported.

31 CABINET WORK PROGRAMME

The Cabinet Work Programme was considered. The Joint Chief Executive confirmed that there were two additional items to be placed on the August Cabinet: The Future of Gurkha Square Market (report considered by Overview and Scrutiny Committee in June) and a report to receive the £2.1m LEP funding to support a total package of £4.6m to deliver environmental improvements centre on Fleet Pond along with sustainable transport solutions through connecting the residential, transport and employment centres of Fleet, Hartland Village and Farnborough.

The Joint Chief Executive also confirmed that:

1. Parking Charge Review due for Cabinet in October 2019 would be added to the Overview and Scrutiny Committee agenda for consideration in September 2019.
2. The date of the update visit on the LGA Peer Review could not be confirmed.

32 OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY WORK PROGRAMME

The Overview and Scrutiny Work Programme was considered and updated.

1. The Long Term Vision for Hart would be considered at the August 2019 meeting of Overview and Scrutiny Committee.
2. Planning Development Management Peer Review terms of reference would be considered by Overview and Scrutiny Committee in August 2019.
3. Parking Charge Review would be considered by Overview and Scrutiny Committee in September 2019.

The meeting closed at 9.43pm