

## **OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY COMMITTEE**

**Date and Time:** 15 August 2017 at 7pm

**Place:** Committee Room 1, Civic Offices, Fleet

**Present:**

### **COUNCILLORS**

Axam, Burchfield, Clarke, Crisp, Crookes (Chairman), Forster (for Gray), Harward, Leeson, Makepeace-Browne, Morris

**In attendance:** Councillors Kinnell (from 7.15pm), Oliver, James Radley

### **Officers:**

Patricia Hughes      Joint Chief Executive  
Andrew Vallance      Head of Corporate Services

## **24 MINUTES**

The minutes of the meeting of 18 July 2017 were confirmed and signed as a correct record.

## **25 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE**

Apologies had been received from Councillors Gray, substituted by Councillor Forster, and Wheale.

## **26 CHAIRMAN'S ANNOUNCEMENTS**

None.

## **27 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

None declared.

## **28 PUBLIC PARTICIPATION (ITEMS PERTAINING TO THE AGENDA)**

None.

## **29 CORPORATE SERVICES AND 5 COUNCILS**

Councillor James Radley updated Members on the progress of services in his portfolio.

Open Spaces

- Delivery of Bramshot Farm SANG was progressing well – Members agreed to review implementation of the project at an appropriate date in the future after implementation so that the actual annual running costs could be

compared with the original business case, to monitor whether sufficient funds have been provided for the next 80 years.

#### Car Parking

- Councillor Radley was supporting the parking team through the process of transition to Indigo
- Roll out of new ticket machines was progressing well – Councillor Forster offered a contrary view and would forward social media comments he had seen to Councillor Radley. His main concern was confusing signage.
- Tendering for the re-surfacing of Church Road car park had been deferred to early in the New Year as most suitable contractors were now fully booked until the autumn and better competition would be achieved by delaying the process. The current surface would last the winter.
- Local residents would be notified well in advance of the planned demolition of the toilet block at Church Road car park.

#### Flooding

- Councillor Radley would defend the Flooding Forum resource in the forthcoming budget process. He wished to maintain the existing good relationships with the water companies.

#### Grounds Maintenance

- The agreement with Basingstoke and Deane BC had been extended to March 2019.
- Councillor Radley would investigate the apparent lack of maintenance of Speed Indicator Devices by BDBC

Councillor Oliver updated the Committee on the 5 Councils Project.

Mendip Lot 1 transition had gone well on 31 July. Hart and other councils were still on course for transition on 1 October.

The Joint Chief Executive presented a diagram of the governance structure of the project.

One outstanding issue had been identified by Councillor Leeson. Members should have the ability to call in decisions of the Joint Committee to their own council's Overview and Scrutiny Committee, before such decisions were implemented. This issue had been raised with the Monitoring Officers for resolution.

### **EXCLUSION OF THE PUBLIC**

Subsequent discussions considered exempt information. In order to discuss any exempt information members considered whether the public interest in maintaining an exemption outweighed the public interest in disclosing the information.

### **RESOLVED**

That in accordance with Section 100A of the Local Government Act 1972, the public be excluded during the discussion of these matters, on the grounds that it involved

the likely disclosure of exempt information, as defined in paragraph 3 of Part 1 of Schedule 12A of the Act, and the public interest in maintaining the exemption outweighed the public interest in disclosing the information.

### **30 CRIME AND DISORDER JOINT SCRUTINY COMMITTEE**

Members expressed strong concerns that the Joint Committee was not scrutinising the Community Safety Partnership's delivery against its objectives for the year. There was little challenge and no actions arising from the meeting.

It was also felt that there was little focus on the issues affecting local residents in Hart. The report was also misleading in that it did not reflect increased crime and anti-social behaviour in Fleet. These should be looked at by the relevant Service Board.

The minutes of the meeting of 20 July 2017 were noted, but under objection:

- a) The Committee wished to see improved reporting in advance of the next annual meeting of the Crime and Disorder Joint Scrutiny Committee.
- b) The Committee may wish to scrutinise delivery of the Community Safety Partnership's objectives at the local level.

### **31 LOCAL GOVERNMENT OMBUDSMAN - ANNUAL REVIEW LETTER 2017**

Members sought clarification on the two decisions referred back for local resolution. The Head of Corporate Services would confirm by email whether it was the case that the complainants had been advised to complain to the Council first before contacting the Ombudsman.

The Ombudsman's 2017 Annual Review letter was noted.

### **32 2017-18 BUDGET MONITORING – TO END OF JUNE**

Members were advised of the position on revenue and capital expenditure at the end of June, before Cabinet considered the information at its September meeting.

Members noted that at the time of the Budget it had been hoped to bring forward commencement of some of the 5 Councils transitions to increase savings by £103k but this had not proved possible.

Members sought more information on:

- 1 Members' expenses, the costs of planning appeals and on car parking income.
- 2 Members requested clarification of the Bramshot Farm capital budget.

### **DECISION**

The information was noted and clarification on the above items requested.

### **33 QUARTER I CORPORATE PERFORMANCE INFORMATION – 2017/18**

Members were updated on the Council's key performance indicator results in the first quarter of 2017/18 (1 April 2017 - 30 June 2017) and end of year outturn.

Members suggested that Indicator R07 might be better presented as an annual rolling average. They also sought details of the applications not decided in time.

Members expressed concerns at Indicators RB08/RB09. The Head of Corporate Services would report these concerns to Capita at the next Revenues and Benefits Service Improvement Group.

#### **DECISION**

The information was noted and actions on the above items requested.

### **34 CABINET WORK PROGRAMME**

The Cabinet Work Programme was considered and noted. Members asked that a proposed date for the Local Plan Reg 19 submission be included.

### **35 OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY WORK PROGRAMME**

The Overview and Scrutiny Work Programme was considered.

Amendments requested were as follows:

- Fly tipping CCTV - tbc (this had not yet commenced)
- Bramshot Farm – review of actual costs v business case – tbc
- Markets – date needed
- Car Park ticket machines – 6 month review after implementation – have objectives been met, lessons to be learned (2 monthly updates to Service Board)
- Cabinet Members to attend to update on progress of their Portfolios

The meeting closed at 9.38 pm.