

Minutes of: OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY COMMITTEE

Date of Meeting: 11 January 2017

Present: Councillor Smith (in the Chair);
Councillors J Black; R Cathcart; T Cummings; E Fitzgerald;
M Hankey; M James; R Skillen; J Walker; R E Walker and S
Wright

Public in attendance: No members of the public were present at the
meeting.

Also in attendance: Councillor Lewis – Deputy Leader and Cabinet Member for
Finance and Human Resources

Councillor Quinn – Cabinet Member for Environment

Apologies for absence:

OSC.448 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

Councillor S Wright declared a personal interest in any matter relating to staffing as his wife is employed in a Bury School

OSC.449 MINUTES

It was agreed:

That the Minutes of the meeting, held on 14 December 2016, be agreed as a correct record.

OSC.450 MATTERS ARISING

There were no matters arising from the Minutes of the last meeting.

OSC.451 PUBLIC QUESTION TIME

There were no members of the public present at the meeting to ask questions under this item.

OSC.452 RECYCLING UPDATE

The Head of Waste Management, Glenn Stuart, submitted a report providing an update on a range waste management and recycling topics raised by the Chair of the Committee, Councillor Smith.

The report set out specific responses to the following issues:

- Progress in respect of food waste recycling
- Sign up to email alerts about collections
- Use of agency staff
- Development of 'in-cab' I-Pads
- Recruitment of women operatives
- Operational reporting to the Depot
- House numbers for bins
- Charges for extra and replacement bins
- Recycling at flats where residents share communal bins

Questions and comments were invited from Members of the Committee and the following issues were raised:

- Councillor Black welcomed the increased use of email alerts and suggested other means of electronic communication be used to send reminders to residents.
- In response to a question from Councillor Hankey concerning flexibility around the costs of replacement bins, the Head of Waste Management stated that cost pressures prevented the Service providing replacements free of charge. It was explained that if a bin had been knowingly damaged by the crew, this should be reported and therefore the cost of replacement would not fall on the resident.
- Councillor S Wright enquired about fly tipping rates since the introduction of 3 weekly residual waste collections. The Cabinet Member for Environment undertook to provide Councillor Wright with a breakdown of the figures.
- With regard to the issue of recruitment, the Head of Waste Management reported that there was a commitment to keep the use of agency staff to a minimum and it is proposed to fill vacancies on a permanent basis or where appropriate through opportunities for apprentices.
- Councillor Black placed on record her thanks and appreciation to the Waste Management Service which had contributed to the Council's recycling rates being at an all time high.
- With regard to the issue of fly tipping, Councillor R E Walker highlighted the issue of residents without a car who are unable to get to recycling centres to dispose of excess rubbish.

- Councillor Fitzgerald suggested that residents should be made more aware of the cost per tonne of waste going into landfill and the potential savings arrived at through increased recycling. It was also suggested that flexible initiatives be developed to encourage easier recycling of electrical and bulky items.

It was agreed:

That the report be noted.

OSC.453 TREASURY MANAGEMENT STRATEGY – MID YEAR REVIEW 2106/17

The Deputy Leader and Cabinet Member (Finance and Human Resources) submitted a mid-year report on the Treasury Management Strategy which had been prepared in compliance with CIPFA's Code of Practice, and covers the following:

- An economic update for the 2016/2017 financial year to 30 September 2016;
- A review of the Treasury Management Strategy Statement and Annual Investment Strategy;
- The Council's capital expenditure (prudential indicators);
- A review of the Council's investment portfolio for 2016/2017;
- A review of the Council's borrowing strategy for 2016/2017;
- A review of any debt rescheduling undertaken during 2016/2017 and
- A review of compliance with Treasury and Prudential Limits for 2016/17.

Questions and comments were invited from Members of the Committee and the following issues were raised:

- In response to a question from Councillor R E Walker concerning Capita Asset Management, the Interim Executive Director of Resources explained that this organisation was appointed as the Council's treasury advisor following a collaborative procurement exercise. The Interim Executive Director gave an undertaking to provide Councillor Walker with details of the annual fee paid to Capita Asset Management.
- The Chair, Councillor Smith, enquired whether there were any plans to move towards higher risk investments in order to potentially achieve higher returns. The Interim Executive Director reported that the Council had diversified into investment properties, but stressed that all investment decisions were assessed against security; liquidity; and yield (in that order).

It was agreed:

1. That the report be noted.
2. That the Cabinet approval given to the addition of the Greater Manchester bodies to the Counterpart Investment List be noted.

OSC.454 OFSTED – SAFEGUARDING CHILDREN ACTION PLAN UPDATE

Further to Minute OSC.23 of the meeting of this Committee, held on 7 June 2016, the Assistant Director, Social care and Safeguarding submitted an update report in respect of the Ofsted Inspection Action Plan.

The inspection report was published 16 May 2016. The overall judgement of effectiveness was that Children’s Services in Bury require improvement to be good. A summary of the key findings is set out below:

- i) Services to children who need help and protection were ‘Good’.
- ii) Services to children looked after and achieving permanence ‘Require Improvement’. (Adoption services were ‘Good’; Experiences and Progress of Care Leavers - Require Improvement).
- iii) Leadership, management and governance was Good

Ofsted made 11 recommendations as to areas for development which were predominantly in respect of practice and services for looked after children and care leavers. An action plan was considered by this Committee and put in place in June/July 2016. Ofsted will undertake a follow up visit to assess progress against the action plan in spring 2017.

The Assistant Director reported that there has been positive progress against the action plan. The Council has supported progress enabling recruitment to vacant posts, agreeing additional capacity where necessary and supporting an ‘invest to save’ proposal to progress the redesign of services to care leavers. It is anticipated that the action plan will be complete by April 2017 and thereafter the quality of services to ‘looked after’ children and care leavers will be the subject of monitoring and routine scrutiny by the Strategic Lead (Performance and Quality), through the monthly performance monitoring meetings chaired by the Director of Children’s Services and by the Corporate Parenting Board.

During discussion of this item, Members highlighted the issue of access to the New Kershaw Centre from the town centre. The Assistant Director explained that an integrated youth service was currently delivered from the centre and reported that assistance was provided in respect of transport costs.

COUNCILLOR S SMITH
Chair

(Note: The meeting started at 7pm and ended at 9.05pm)