

PERFORMANCE SCRUTINY COMMITTEE

MINUTES of the meeting held on Thursday, 24 March 2016 commencing at 10.00 am and finishing at 11.52 am

Present:

Voting Members: Councillor Liz Brighthouse OBE – in the Chair
Councillor Neil Fawcett (Deputy Chairman)
Councillor Lynda Atkins
Councillor John Christie
Councillor Sam Coates
Councillor Yvonne Constance OBE
Councillor Janet Godden
Councillor Stewart Lilly
Councillor Charles Mathew
Councillor Patrick Greene (In place of Councillor Steve Harrod)

Other Members in Attendance: Councillor Carter (for Agenda Item 5)
Councillor Heathcoat (for Agenda Item 5)
Councillor Nimmo Smith (for Agenda Item5)

Officers:

Whole of meeting John Courouble, Research & Intelligence Manager;
Steve Jones, Sue Whitehead (Corporate Services);

Part of meeting

Agenda Item **Officer Attending**
5 Ian Dyson, Assistant Chief Finance Officer (Assurance);
Sue Scane, Director for Environment & Economy; Mark Kemp, Deputy Director, Commercial, Graham Shaw, Deputy Director – OCS and Dale Stevens, Insurance Manager, Insurance Team; Peter Clark, Head of Paid Service

The Scrutiny Committee considered the matters, reports and recommendations contained or referred to in the agenda for the meeting, and agreed as set out below. Copies of the agenda and reports are attached to the signed Minutes.

20/16 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE AND TEMPORARY APPOINTMENTS

(Agenda No. 1)

Apologies were received from Councillor Gray and from Councillor Harrod (Councillor Greene substituting).

21/16 MINUTES

(Agenda No. 3)

The Minutes of the meeting held on 18 February 2016 was approved and signed as a correct record.

22/16 BUSINESS MANAGEMENT MONITORING REPORT FOR THE THIRD QUARTER 2015/16

(Agenda No. 5)

The Committee considered a paper outlining the Council's performance for the third quarter of 2015/16. Director for Environment & Economy, Sue Scane attended, together with Mark Kemp, Deputy Director, Commercial, Graham Shaw, Deputy Director – OCS and Dale Stevens, Insurance Manager, Insurance Team to allow for a focused performance discussion on key areas of concern.

Environment & Economy

There was lengthy discussion of the performance figures with the following matters highlighted:

- 1) The Committee recognised the staff resourcing issues within Environment & Economy and considered its implications across a broad range of services and projects including responding to traffic issues (where demand continued to grow), supported transport, Oxfordshire Together and property, design and construction. The Chairman advised that there would be a future focussed session on property issues.
- 2) There was detailed consideration of the position in relation to potholes, which members identified as a major concern of local residents across the County. In noting that 100% of potholes described as critical for safety had been dealt with members queried the definition and highlighted local concerns. There was a disconnect between targets and public expectation. The Committee also considered detailed information on related insurance claims.
- 3) The Committee noted achievements including responses to District Council planning applications which were being dealt with ahead of target; a number of projects had been completed and work on the Strategic Economic Plan in partnership with the LEP.
- 4) In response to comments the Committee heard that progress was being made in achieving capital receipts.
- 5) There was discussion over concerns with S106 funding and Members raised individual issues. The Chairman hoped issues could be raised outside the meeting and at locality meetings. There was a wider aspect to the way that S106 agreements were being developed and concerns over the lack of local plans that the Committee agreed that this included in the work programme for an in depth look. Councillor Carter commented that this was a significant issue for the Council as a whole and that Scrutiny could act as a catalyst for a very useful discussion.
- 6) The Committee noted the poor figures in relation to wood recycling. They were advised of the fall in the market, that there was no expectation that it would pick

up and that other forms of recycling were also suffering with more material being rejected as contaminated.

- 7) Members generally commended the success of Frideswide Square but highlighted a number of issues around signage; pedestrian routes and the damage to kerbing and discolouration of surfaces. Sue Scane thanked Members for their comments and explained that in any project of this size there was an audit process that would happen once the scheme had bedded in to see if any tweaks were needed.

During discussion of the other areas the following points were made together with specific requests for additional information and/or further consideration.

Adult Social Care

Members flagged up continuing problems with delays in reablement which impacted on the delivery of the delayed transfer of care project.

Children Education & Families

A member referring to paragraph 21 commented that there was still some confusion over the roles of the Regional Schools Commissioner, Ofsted and the County Council in relation to schools improvement and that a written paper would be useful.

In relation to paragraph 19 on the multi-agency safeguarding hub the Chairman advised that the Committee would be considering this at the next meeting.

..... in the Chair

Date of signing 2016