

# MINUTES OF SCRUTINY COMMITTEE

8 MARCH 2021

## PRESENT:

### Members of the Committee:

Councillors Mahoney (Chair), Mrs A'Barrow, Eccleson, Gillias, Mrs New, Mrs O'Rourke, Mrs Parker (substitute for Councillor Cade), Picker and Roodhouse

### Officers:

Dan Green (Deputy Executive Director), Aftab Razzaq (Legal, Electoral and Democratic Services Manager), Jon Illingworth (Chief Financial Officer) and Linn Ashmore (Democratic Services Officer)

## 13. MINUTES

The minutes of the meeting held on 25 January 2021 were approved.

## 14. APOLOGIES

Apologies for absence from the meeting were received from Councillor Cade.

## 15. FINANCE AND PERFORMANCE MONITORING 2020/21 QUARTER 3

The Committee referred to the report from Cabinet 1 February 2021. The Financial Services Manager reported that the report set out the anticipated finance and performance position as of 31 December 2020 and included the setting up of budgets for grants, the slippage of the capital programme costs into the next financial year following savings made due to Covid-19, and the position for the General Fund and the Housing Revenue Account.

The Committee agreed that finance and performance information could be presented in a more meaningful way. The report for quarter 3 was very detailed due to the quantity of information. All finance and performance reports were submitted to Cabinet in the first instance, but officers were supportive of monitoring reports being as concise as possible.

The Legal, Electoral and Democratic Services Manager undertook to look at the procedure and the format for how information was presented to Members and report back to the Committee.

**RESOLVED THAT** – a report on the procedure and the format of finance and performance reporting be brought back to the Committee.

## 16. REVIEW OF WASTE AND RESOURCES

The Committee considered the draft one-page strategy (Part 1 – agenda item 5).

During discussion, the following points were made:

The review should look at short, medium, and long-term plans. There was a concern that the impact of any campaign would be short-term, and the impetus

would be lost over time and it would be wise to include some longer-term actions to mitigate against this happening.

A question was raised about whether the wider public would be consulted. The task group would be charged with how the review would be conducted.

Support would be needed from the Communications Team to maintain the spotlight on and public focus on the campaign.

This was intended as a short-term review looking at campaign work to improve recycling levels and reduce the amount of contamination in recycling collected at the kerbside. This supported an ongoing Council aim from both a financial and moral imperative.

A second longer-term piece of work would follow based on the specific task of responding to the Government's Resources and Waste Strategy. The second consultation was expected next month.

**RESOLVED THAT** – the one-page strategy be approved, and a task group be formed to carry out the review.

## **17. OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY WORK PROGRAMME**

The Committee received a table listing future work programme topics, items due to be scheduled and outlining the current position of reviews (Part 1 – agenda item 6).

**RESOLVED THAT** – the Overview and Scrutiny Work Programme be noted.

## **18. MOTIONS**

The Committee received a report on a Motion from Council on the topic of flooding (Part 1 – agenda item 7).

It was acknowledged that flooding was an important topic that required further scrutiny. A thorough piece of scrutiny work on drainage was carried out in 2009 and a detailed report was produced. It was agreed the report and recommendations should be revisited to check what progress had been made, and whether any further actions to this could be made.

A suggestion was made that Council Motions and outcomes be published.

**RESOLVED THAT** – The Review of Drainage report be referred to the Planning Services Working Party with a request that it review the report and recommendations and report back to the Committee in September 2021.

**CHAIR**