

OVERVIEW AND PERFORMANCE SCRUTINY FORUM MEETING

Thursday, 3 April, 2014

Present:-

Councillor Lang (Chair)

Councillors	Bagley	Lowe
	Blank+++	Tom Murphy
	Borrell	Neil Rayner
	Flood	Slack
	Gibson	
	Innes	

Jonathan Alsop, ICT Programme Manager++
 Anita Cunningham, Policy and Scrutiny Officer
 Barry Dawson, Head of Finance+
 John Moran, Programme Manager++
 Donna Reddish, Policy Manager+++
 Mary Stead, Democratic Services Officer

+ Attended for Minute No. 76
 ++ Attended for Minute No. 77
 +++ Attended for Minute No. 78

74 DECLARATIONS OF MEMBERS' AND OFFICERS INTERESTS RELATING TO ITEMS ON THE AGENDA

No declarations were received.

75 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies were received from Councillors Bradford, Callan and Paul Stone.

76 LEADER AND EXECUTIVE MEMBER FOR REGENERATION - UPDATE REPORT ON THE BUDGET

The Head of Finance provided an update on the Council's General Fund Budget 2013/14 and 2014/15.

The update included:-

- details of the forecast 2013/14 year-end position;
- key issues to monitor in 2014/15, including:
 - implementation of approved budget savings targets,
 - business rates income and appeals outcomes
 - key income sources

- key expenditure budgets;
- General Fund capital programme outline;
- progress on implementation of budget-saving proposals.

Regular monitoring reports would be provided for Cabinet and Scrutiny, so that the effectiveness of measures intended to meet savings targets and reduce the predicted deficit could be assessed.

Members requested further details of the voluntary severance costs, and of the progress made in renegotiating the Public Private Partnership contracts.

RESOLVED –

That the report be noted, and staff and Members commended for their work to achieve a balanced budget.

77 DEPUTY LEADER AND EXECUTIVE MEMBER FOR PLANNING - PROGRESS REPORT ON GREAT PLACE:GREAT SERVICE TRANSFORMATION PROGRAMME

General Progress Update

The Programme Manager gave a report on progress made with the Great Place:Great Service Transformation Programme.

The report included information on the objectives of Great Place:Great Service, which was intended to achieve an integrated approach to the Council's four key strategies: ICT, Customer Services, Workforce Development and Asset Management.

The strategies aimed to help deliver the Council's Vision 'Putting Our Communities First' while maintaining a solvent and financially sound Council over the medium term (2014/17).

Customer Services Update - The Council was collecting data around its current interactions with customers, so that it would better understand their behaviour and expectations. It was hoped that the first results would be available in May 2014.

Presentations had already been given to the Council on plans for self-service and improved workflow, and proposals to enable customers to access more Council services on-line, at a time that would suit them.

ICT Update (GPGS) - Several measures had been taken to implement the ICT Strategy. These included –

- encouraging employees to 'clock on' on line;
- demonstrating the technology used to deliver flexible working;

- installing WiFi in Committee Rooms 1 and 2;
- initiating the procurement process for a new intranet system;
- collating data on all the IT systems used in the Council;
- profiling users, to meet the requirements of each role in the Council.

It was hoped that this ICT work would deliver 'quick wins' and facilitate flexible working, as well as saving money by avoiding any duplication or overlapping of procedures and technology. The intention was to ensure that staff had the tools that they needed to do the job.

Workforce update - Service managers and the Corporate Management Team (CMT) were being trained to manage performance.

Lean Academy master belt training was being given, so that the Council could undertake its own Lean reviews.

An NVQ3 training programme for employees was being developed, to improve work in their service areas.

The second phase of the Project Academy had just begun, with the aim of training staff to undertake work often done by external consultants, thus saving money and developing staff skills.

The employee survey had just finished, and results would be analysed and reported to Members. There had been a 58% response rate, which was encouraging.

Members welcomed the formal update on GPGS provided at the Overview and Performance Scrutiny Forum meetings, and the additional informal update meetings held in between. They were reminded that if there were specific issues on which they needed more information, the officers would provide it on request.

The use of ICT by Members was discussed in some detail, and issues relating to training in the use of Ipads and accessing WiFi in Council premises were raised. It was suggested that Elected Members would benefit from more information about devices when they were issued with them, and more training in how to use them. Further information was requested on the proposals for New Square, so that Members would better understand the benefits of merging CCTV and Parking.

There was consideration of the ways that the demand for 'on line' services would change over time, as a result of demographic change. It was assumed that younger people would feel more comfortable with doing most of their transactions on line.

In the short term, better marketing and communication would be needed to inform the public of the different options for contacting the Council, and to encourage them to use

them, rather than relying on 'face-to-face' contact, the telephone, cash payments and letters.

The Customer Survey had shown that almost two thirds of customers did not use the Council's website, so there was evidently a need to promote it.

ICT Strategy Implementation Progress Update

The ICT Projects Manager gave an update on the progress implementing the ICT Strategy.

The report outlined the strategic vision for the ICT Strategy, and work being done to establish a new governance structure for it, as part of the Great Place:Great Service (GPGS) initiative.

The report summarised the key themes of the ICT Strategy, including Citizen Centric Services, Flexible Working (remote and mobile), application system improvements, corporate Intranet development, the Corporate Document Management System (CDMS), the Geographical Information System (GIS), e-payments and security.

The proposed changes to the ICT governance structure to link with the GPGS governance structure were outlined.

A Strategic Steering Group was working on the implementation of the ICT Strategy and there would be a further update at the next meeting of the Overview and Performance Scrutiny Forum.

Progress was being made with the development of Customer Centric Services, for example for Leisure bookings. The provision of WiFi at Leisure Centres, and in future at the Winding Wheel and Assembly Rooms was expected to attract customers.

The CDMS would enable the Council to keep more complete records without needing much space to do so, and GIS would facilitate the collation of information and mapping of problems, making it easier to plan how best to resolve issues effectively.

Improvements had already been achieved in the Operational Services Division (OSD) contractors recording process, and in the security of documents and transactions, to comply with the Government's Public Sector Network requirements and annual audit.

Corporate Asset Management Plan (CAMP) Progress Update

The Programme Manager provided an update on the implementation of the Corporate Asset Management Plan.

This included completing the refurbishment of the lower ground floor to accommodate four voluntary sector organisations, which were expected to move in by May 2014.

Land currently occupied by the Derbyshire Unemployed Workers Centre would become available for sale, and there was considerable interest in this town centre location.

If more space could be made available in the Town Hall it was likely that other public bodies would wish to rent it, producing an income for the Council.

The Environment Services team had relocated from East Lodge to their new accommodation at the Operational Services Division (OSD) depot at Stonegravels. East Lodge had been sold, subject to contract. The merging of the Environment and Housing depots had created a 'super depot' offering better facilities, and an improved working environment, to staff, and encouraging co-operation between them.

Garages were being constructed and were expected to be completed by the end of April.

Staveley area office was on the market and had attracted some interest. Payments could now be made using machines located within the Healthy Living Centre.

A model office was being established in the Town Hall, to demonstrate to staff what working in this new environment would be like for them.

The CCTV and Parking teams were being merged, to create more space at 87 New Square, and the building was on the market.

Further information was requested about some CCTV equipment that had been bought using Community Forum funds, but could not be used as envisaged because of changes in Police guidance on the use of CCTV. It was suggested that this matter be raised with officers, and if necessary, suggested to the Community, Customer and Organisational Scrutiny Committee as a possible topic for their work programme.

It was hoped that cash receipts from the current sale of assets would total approximately £800,000. These measures were part of a three year asset management programme.

There was a four year asset disposal plan, and in the longer term Planning were involved in a 25 year plan for the remaining assets.

RESOLVED –

That the Programme Manager and ICT Projects Manager be thanked for their presentations, and that a regular update on these matters be provided at future Scrutiny meetings.

78 EXECUTIVE MEMBER FOR CUSTOMERS AND COMMUNITIES - REPORT ON COMMUNITY CONSULTATION SURVEY RESULTS

The Policy Manager gave a presentation on the 'Are You Being Served?' Community Consultation Survey Results.

The survey used the MORI and Local Government Association (LGA) recommended methodology and met all data quality requirements to enable benchmarking with other authorities.

The Community Engagement Group, and the Executive Member for Customers and Communities and the Assistant Executive Member for Customers and Communities had endorsed the project, which had been delivered on time and on budget. With a sample size of 758 the survey had yielded good quality data. Little 'weighting' had been needed, because the sample was a good match with the demographic data for the Borough.

It was possible to compare the 2008 Place Survey data with the 'Are You Being Served?' data. The vast majority of the indicators showed positive progress, indicating higher levels of customer satisfaction.

The responses showed the areas of greatest concern, which could be taken into account when deciding on Council policies and actions.

A more detailed breakdown by ward would be made available to Members of Council, Community Assemblies could also access the data for their area.

It was requested that a copy of the presentation and reports be circulated with the Minutes.

RESOLVED –

That the report be noted and the Policy Manager thanked for her presentation.

79 SCRUTINY REPORT ON COMMUNITY ASSEMBLIES INVOLVEMENT

The Scrutiny and Policy Officer reported on the presentation of the Council's Overview and Scrutiny role to Community Assemblies.

The report included information about the priorities raised by the Community Assemblies, for inclusion in the scrutiny work programmes. It also included options to involve Community Assembly representatives in scrutiny work.

Each Community Assembly had been visited by the Scrutiny and Policy Officer and the Overview and Scrutiny Committee Chairs. A presentation had been given to the Community Assemblies, and workshops had been held to prioritise issues for scrutiny, using the 'issues for change' agenda already drawn up by each Community Assembly.

The priorities identified were, in order of importance:-

- community development for people of all ages;
- dealing more effectively with dog fouling;

- litter and street scene issues;
- protection of green spaces and verges;
- parking and roads issues;
- public service agencies working better together, and on community safety.

Community Assemblies would be kept informed of the response of the Overview and Performance Scrutiny Forum to their suggested priorities.

Consideration was given to the future role of Community Assembly representatives in the scrutiny process, as co-opted members of Scrutiny Project Groups, or by attending meetings to give evidence and inform the scrutiny reviews. It was suggested that Community Assemblies be requested to put a Scrutiny item on their agendas at regular meetings, to provide an opportunity for an update on issues raised by the Community Assembly for action by Scrutiny, and to enable people attending the Assemblies to raise matters for Scrutiny.

The first two priorities for Scrutiny would be dog fouling and building communities, and the other priorities could be considered at a future Scrutiny meeting. Items raised by Community Assemblies would be covered by the appropriate Scrutiny Committee.

Two-way communication between Scrutiny and Community Assemblies was important, so that expectations of Scrutiny action raised at Community Assemblies remained realistic. It was also necessary to ensure that there was a good understanding of the Scrutiny process by Community Assemblies.

RESOLVED –

1. That the priorities outlined in paragraph 4.2 of the report be considered when drawing up the scrutiny committee work programmes, prioritising community development and action to deal with dog fouling as the first two priorities to be added to the work programmes.
2. That involvement of Community Assembly representatives be encouraged, and further consideration be given to how best to achieve this objective at a future meeting of the Overview and Performance Scrutiny Forum.

80 FORWARD PLAN

The Forward Plan was considered. Some information was requested around the Review of Town Centre Events. It was requested that the Member contact the responsible officer directly.

81 SCRUTINY MONITORING

Consideration was given to the Monitoring Form for the implementation of Scrutiny Committee recommendations.

It was reported that Councillor Innes would be attending the Joint Cabinet and Employment and General Committee meeting on 8 April, 2014, to present the Scrutiny Committee recommendations on Anti Social Behaviour.

82 SCRUTINY PROJECT GROUP PROGRESS UPDATES)

An update was provided on the Scrutiny Project Group progress on:-

Welfare Reform

No report was given. The Chair agreed to contact Councillor Hawksworth to get an update on the situation.

External Communications Strategy

It was reported that the Scrutiny Project Group's draft report was near to completion.

There was still more information to be collected, but the working group were close to being able to make recommendations based on information collected on the work and policies, through interviews and survey results. Information had been gathered on the use of the Council's website.

It was regretted that support had not been available to assist with this work. For this reason, despite support from the Policy and Scrutiny Officer, it was unlikely that the Scrutiny Project Group's report would be produced in time to meet its original deadline.

83 WORK PROGRAMME FOR THE OVERVIEW AND PERFORMANCE SCRUTINY FORUM

The Work Programme for the Overview and Performance Scrutiny Forum was considered.

The Work Programme included items that were on the Agenda for every meeting, as well as those that having been dealt with at this meeting, could now be removed.

Suggestions for the next Agendas included:

- Constitution
- Refresh of Tenant Involvement
- Tenant Consultation Survey Results
- Overview and Performance Scrutiny Arrangements - Action Plan progress
- Dog Control Measures Progress Report

- Corporate Performance.

These suggested priorities were in addition to the standing agenda items, which included the budget and Great Place: Great Service. reports. It was possible that some of the issues could be dealt with by written reports rather than in the next meeting.

84 JOINT OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY

The Scrutiny and Policy Officer reported that the last scheduled meeting of this committee had been cancelled.

Items for inclusion in the Agenda of the next Joint Overview and Scrutiny Panel should be given to the Policy and Scrutiny Officer.

85 OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY DEVELOPMENTS

The Scrutiny and Policy Officer reported that the next training session for Scrutiny Members, before the Overview and Performance Scrutiny Forum, would be on the Councillor Call for Action.

An extra session was being arranged on Questioning Skills, and Members would be notified of its date and time.

Further suggestions about training needs would be welcomed by the Policy and Scrutiny Officer.

86 MINUTES

The Minutes of the meeting of the Overview and Performance Scrutiny Forum held on 30 January, 2014 were presented.

RESOLVED –

That the Minutes be approved as a correct record and signed by the Chair.