

SCRUTINY SELECT COMMITTEE – RESILIENT COUNCIL

Thursday, 6th July, 2023

Present:-

Councillor Dyke (Chair)

Councillors Hollingworth
Kellman
McLaren

Councillors Ogle
Ridgway
Twigg

*Matters dealt with under the Delegation Scheme

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

No declarations of interest were received.

2 **APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE**

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors Blakemore, Wheeldon and Snowdon.

3 **SCRUTINY ANNUAL REPORT**

The Service Director – Corporate presented a report to the Committee detailing the work of the Council's overview and scrutiny committees.

The annual report, attached at Appendix 1 of the Director's report, set out the work, achievements and impact of the overview and scrutiny function in 2022/23 across all three scrutiny committees.

It was reported that the range of issues of interest to Scrutiny continued to grow and matched the ambitions of the Council's Council Plan and Delivery Plans but also day to day service provision. Selecting the areas to focus scrutiny activity could be a challenge.

Following the reduction in Council size due to the Local Government Boundary Review, the number of Overview and Scrutiny Committees had been reduced from three to two. The overall number of overview and scrutiny places had decreased from 32, but the actual number of members engaged had increased, helping to increase overview and scrutiny oversight and provide much needed evening committee places.

The new Scrutiny Select Committee model would help to take forward the engagement and pre-decision scrutiny approach and build upon the successes of 2022/23.

RESOLVED –

That the report be recommended to Council.

4 COUNCIL PLAN ANNUAL PERFORMANCE REPORT 2022/23

The Service Director – Corporate presented a report on the progress made towards the delivery of the Council Plan Delivery Plan 2022/23. The progress made on the 36 milestones tracked during 2022/23 was detailed in Appendix 1 of the Director's report.

It was reported that 86% of milestones for the “Making Chesterfield a thriving borough” priority area had been delivered and a further 14% had made good progress and were set to be delivered during 2023/24. Highlights were said to include;

- The Northern Gateway Enterprise Centre was now open and fully operational with a 65% let rate in its first year of operations
- One Waterside Place was officially opened in January 2023, providing six floors of grade A office and ground floor retail.
- Over 700 business enquiries had been received during 2022/23 with a range of support being offered including business start ups, expanding business and inward investment
- Over 1973 learners had benefited from skills programmes – enhancing their current and future careers
- We had achieved 100% local labour clauses across eligible developments during the life of the Council Plan. In 2022/23 this

created 1,017 jobs including 40 apprenticeships and created in excess of £34 million in local supply chain spend

- Over £22 million had been brought in for economic development programmes and projects during the life of the Council Plan
- The events programme had grown throughout the Plan period with traditional favourites such as the Medieval Market, 1940s Market and Fireworks but also a range of speciality markets

It was also reported that 86% of the milestones for the “Improving quality of life for local people” priority area had been delivered and 95% of the Climate Change Action Plan had been fully delivered, with asset management and the strategic transport assessment being moved into delivery for 2023/24. Highlights in this priority area were;

- Completing £14 million worth of improvement work at Pullman Close, Mallard, Leander, Brierley and Dixon Courts.
- 33 new homes were added to the Council’s housing stock with local families moving into high quality homes at Badger Croft and Harehill Mews
- Delivery of a comprehensive range of equality and diversity educational and celebratory events including sponsoring Chesterfield Pride 2022, Holocaust Memorial Day, Neurodiversity awareness sessions, cultural awareness sessions, LBT Research project and International women’s day
- New Anti-social behaviour strategy and approach launched focusing on prevention, early intervention, problem solving and engagement with new partnership approaches including multi-agency tasking, greater visibility across all partners and enhanced learning and development.
- Over £629,000 worth of disabled facilities grants were provided and adaptations made to enable people to maintain their independence and homes
- 2720 children were taught how to swim, 6662 people were members of our leisure centres and 1454 had accessed sessions for health and wellbeing

62% of the milestones for the “Provide value for money services” priority area had been delivered and 72% of the key measures within this priority met their target. Delivery highlights included;

- Take up and usage of ‘My Chesterfield’, our customer portal, was rising each month and at the year-end we had over 35,000 registered users. New services had been developed within the portal including the ability to pay for bulky waste services online and providing information on council house rent bills and balances. The new complaints system had also gone live
- Our social media accounts and website were also attracting more views, followers and engagement
- We had exceeded targets for apprenticeships with 35. This included 25 upskilling opportunities for staff and 10 new apprenticeship roles

Members asked if management vacancy controls would remain in place as part of the Council plans. The Service Director confirmed that vacancy control was something that would be still needed with current levels of funding.

Members also asked about the occupancy of One Waterside Place and if these were new or existing businesses. The Service Director advised that One Waterside Place was premium office location so was attracting expanding businesses or existing businesses looking to relocate, whereas the Northern Gateway was more suited for newer/start-up businesses.

A question was asked around the financial challenges facing the Council and further investment. The Service Director advised that the new Council Plan had the funding to deliver targets set.

The Chair thanked the Service Director for the report and requested a further update to the committee in six months’ time.

RESOLVED –

That the report be noted.

5 MYCHESTERFIELD UPDATE

This agenda item was adjourned.

RESOLVED –

That the report be presented at the next committee.

6 SCRUTINY PROJECT GROUPS PROGRESS UPDATES

There were no Scrutiny Project Groups updates to be presented.

7 SCRUTINY MONITORING

This is a standard agenda item for the Committee to consider the scrutiny recommendations implementation monitoring schedule.

RESOLVED –

There was no scrutiny monitoring schedule to be noted.

8 FORWARD PLAN

The Committee considered the Forward Plan for the period 1 August 2023 to 30 November 2023.

RESOLVED –

That the Forward Plan be noted.

9 WORK PROGRAMME FOR THE SCRUTINY SELECT COMMITTEE - RESILIENT COUNCIL

The Committee Members discussed options for agreeing the next Scrutiny Work Programme for 2023/24. An action was noted that further work was to be carried out for Members to meet and agree which topics would be added to the Work Programme and what timescale this would cover.

RESOLVED –

That the action be noted.

10 MINUTES

This is a standard agenda item to present the Minutes of the meeting of the last Scrutiny Select Committee – Resilient Council.

RESOLVED –

There were no previous Minutes to be approved as a correct record and signed by the Chair.