

# Place and Corporate Overview and Scrutiny Committee

Wednesday 27 July 2016

## PRESENT:

Councillor Bowie, in the Chair.

Councillor Ball, Vice Chair.

Councillors Carson, Churchill, Sam Davey, Fletcher, Fry, Mavin, Morris, Penberthy and Storer.

Also in attendance: Lesa Annear (Strategic Director for Transformation and Change), Paul Barnard (Assistant Director for Strategic Planning and Infrastructure), Councillor Darcy (Cabinet Member for Finance and ICT), Andrew Hardingham (Assistant Director for Finance), Ross Jago (Lead Officer), Councillor Nicholson (Deputy Leader and Cabinet Member for Strategic Transport, Housing and Planning), Anthony Payne (Strategic Director for Place), Giles Perritt (Assistant Chief Executive), Hannah Sloggett (Neighbourhood Planning Manager) and Helen Wright (Democratic Support Officer).

The meeting started at 5.00 pm and finished at 7.05 pm.

*Note: At a future meeting, the Panel will consider the accuracy of these draft minutes, so they may be subject to change. Please check the minutes of that meeting to confirm whether these minutes have been amended.*

**Please Note This Meeting was Webcast and can be Viewed at –**

<http://council.webcast.vualto.com/plymouth-city-council/home/?EventId=16311>

### 1. **TO NOTE THE APPOINTMENT OF THE CHAIR AND VICE CHAIR**

The committee noted the appointment of Councillor Bowie as Chair and Councillor Ball as Vice Chair for the forthcoming municipal year 2016/17.

### 2. **DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

There were no declarations of interest made by Councillors in accordance with the code of conduct.

### 3. **CHAIR'S URGENT BUSINESS**

There were no items of Chair's urgent business.

### 4. **PLYMOUTH CITY COUNCIL'S DRAFT CORPORATE PLAN 2016-19**

Councillor Nicholson (Deputy Leader and Cabinet Member for Strategic Transport, Housing and Planning), Councillor Darcy (Cabinet Member for Finance and ICT), Lesa Annear (Strategic Director for Transformation and Change), Anthony Payne (Strategic Director for Place), Giles Perritt (Assistant Chief Executive)

and David Draffan (Assistant Director for Economic Development) presented Plymouth City Council's Draft Corporate Plan 2016/19 (as attached).



1 Corporate Plan.pdf FINAL.pdf

In response to key areas of questioning by Councillors, it was reported that -

- (a) there was only one vision for the city and the 'our vision – one team serving our city' complimented the four themes;
- (b) score cards would be available to scrutinise; these would provide more high level information;
- (c) a cross party working group had been established (primarily around street services) to take forward and promote the volunteering agenda; at this stage, it was premature to suggest that the volunteering agenda was excluding anyone from potentially participating;
- (d) the aim of digital accessibility was not to alienate people but to engage with them, in order to provide a more dynamic service, as well as achieving savings;
- (e) the committee's request for fly-tipping to be added to the priority activity would be taken on board;
- (f) all the stalled development sites had been analysed and discussions held with developers to help 'un-lock' these sites;
- (g) the council's existing commercial estate achieved an occupancy rate of 97%-98% across the portfolio and a net yield of 5.7%; it was also important to have the ability to purchase new assets in order to generate income streams;
- (h) there were risks associated with 'Brexit' and at this stage, it was difficult to forecast all the implications; working groups had been set up for Members and officers to identify both risks and opportunities.

The committee agreed that –

- (1) it should be explicit within the Corporate Plan that the move to increased digital accessibility is based on an approach of digital by preference;
- (2) a focus on fly-tipping should be added to the priority activity on littering;

- (3) the Corporate Plan Performance Framework is made available as a standing item to the committee;
- (4) net yield and occupancy rates from the council's commercial estate and information on stalled sites will be monitored by the committee through the most appropriate mechanism;
- (5) a report on the UK's withdrawal from the European Union and the impact on and response by the council to be provided to the committee at a future meeting.

*(Please note: this issue was webcast)*

## 5. **MEDIUM TERM FINANCIAL STRATEGY 2016-20**

Councillor Darcy (Cabinet Member for Finance and IT), Lesa Annear (Strategic Director for Transformation and Change) and Andrew Hardingham (Assistant Director for Finance) presented the Medium Term Financial Strategy (as attached).



2 MTFS.pdf

In response to key areas of questioning by Councillors, it was reported that -

- (a) the level of council borrowing had been maintained at under £300m for 2015/16 (this borrowing related to the capital programme); the approved authorised borrowing limits which the council was required to publish (£338 for 2016//17) took into account the council's overall day to day financial operations;
- (b) the transformation stretch savings were options which had been put forward for an 'open debate' with both Members and residents; it was anticipated that the public consultation exercise together with the recommendations from the Select Committee Reviews would help to shape future proposals;
- (c) some of the proposals contained within the transformation stretch savings required further work, so at this stage of the process, no figures had been included;
- (d) the 2016/17 budget was challenging, particularly when put into context that significant savings (£20m) had already been delivered prior to this budget; with any such savings there would always be risks and challenges in delivering those savings; (assurance was given that the budget was reviewed and challenged on a monthly basis);
- (d) Councillor Darcy (Cabinet Member for Finance and IT) stated that he was keen to have proper consultation relating to the budget, as this would assist in delivering a balanced budget.

The committee agreed that –

- (1) a Select Committee Review will be held in early September 2016 on the Plan for Waste;
- (2) a joint Select Committee Review will be held, at the most appropriate time, to enable pre-decision scrutiny of the budget, efficiency proposals, the next iteration of the Medium Term Financial Strategy, consultation feedback on the proposals and the findings from the Select Committee Review on waste, prior to decisions being taken by the Cabinet and Council.

*(Please note: this issue was webcast)*

## 6. **PLYMOUTH PLAN/LOCAL JOINT PLAN**

Councillor Nicholson (Deputy Leader and Cabinet Member for Strategic Transport, Housing and Planning), Anthony Payne (Strategic Director for Place), Paul Barnard (Assistant Director for Strategic Planning and Infrastructure) and Hannah Sloggett (Neighbourhood Planning Manager) presented the Plymouth Plan/Local Joint Plan (as attached).



3 Joint Local Development Plan.pdf

Responses to the key areas of questioning by Councillors, it was reported that -

- (a) part one of the Plymouth Plan committed the authority to continue to meet the full needs of the gypsy and traveller community, with the provision of both permanent and transient sites; further work on the overall provision (including what sites were needed) was required; the outcome of this work would be fed back into part one of the Plan;
- (b) there were gypsy and traveller sites contained within the Plan that required further discussion and Paradise Road was one such site; the Council, as a landowner, was looking to release land for housing development however, if sites were taken out of the Plan alternative sites would need to be found (Councillor Nicholson would be meeting with residents to listen to their concerns regarding Paradise Road).

The committee agreed that the Lead Officer, in consultation with the Chair and Vice Chair will prepare a consultation response on behalf of the committee.

*(Please note: this issue was webcast)*

7. **URGENT KEY EXECUTIVE DECISION**

The Chair advised the committee that she had signed one urgent decision relating to the acquisition of an industrial estate. The urgent decision was taken due to the commercial sensitivity and the need to protect the Council's business and financial interests. Once the contracts had been exchanged the detailed information would be available for public inspection.

The acquisition would deliver a surplus income to contribute to council services, protect valuable employment space and provide a long term capital asset for future financial benefit to Plymouth.

The committee noted the urgent key executive decision.

*(Please note: this issue was webcast)*

8. **WORK PROGRAMME**

The committee agreed that the following items would be added to the work programme, with dates being scheduled, in consultation with the Chair and Vice Chair, following discussions with the relevant officers –

- Quality Inn Hotel;
- History Centre;
- Council Tax Support Scheme;
- Child Poverty Action Plan;
- Emergency Welfare Fund;
- SMART working.

(Please refer to minute 5 above regarding the Select Committee Reviews)

*(Please note: this issue was webcast)*