

Place and Corporate Overview and Scrutiny Committee

Wednesday 1 March 2017

PRESENT:

Councillor Bowie, in the Chair.

Councillor Ball, Vice Chair.

Councillors Carson, Churchill, Sam Davey, Fletcher, Mavin, Parker-Delaz-Ajete (substitute for Councillor Morris), Penberthy and Storer.

Apologies for absence: Councillors Fry and Morris.

Also in attendance: Chris Arscott (Chairman of the Waterfront BID), Dawn Anger (Interim Joint Strategic Director for Transformation and Change (Transformation)), Councillor Bowyer (Leader), Guy Dickson (Head of Organisational Development), David Draffan (Assistant Director for Economic Development), Sarah Gibson (Waterfront Manager and Chief Executive of Plymouth Waterfront Partnership), Sarah Gooding (Policy and Intelligence Adviser), Ross Jago (Lead Officer), Councillor Jordan (Cabinet Member for Culture), Patrick Knight (Economy, Partnerships and Regeneration Manager), Paul Looby (Head of Financial Reporting and Planning), Andrew Loton (Senior Performance Officer), Councillor Riley (Cabinet Member for HR/Democracy and Governance/Licensing), Alison Ward (Regional Partnerships Manager) and Helen Wright (Democratic Adviser).

The meeting started at 3.00 pm and finished at 5.10 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 is webcast and can be viewed at - <http://council.webcast.vualto.com/plymouth-city-council/home/?EventId=19054>

33. **Declarations of Interest**

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

34. **Minutes**

The committee agreed that the minutes of the meeting held on 7 December 2016 are a correct record.

35. **Chair's Urgent Business**

There were no items of Chair's urgent business.

36. **Capital and Revenue Monitoring Report 2016/17 - Quarter 3**

Councillor Bowyer (Leader) and Paul Looby (Head of Financial Reporting and Planning) presented the Capital and Revenue monitoring report 2016/17 – quarter 3.

Key areas of questioning related to –

- the feasibility of setting a balanced budget by year end;
- the level set (5%) for the working balance.

The committee noted the report.

37. **The Council's Corporate Plan Monitoring Report and Commitment Progress Report**

Councillor Bowyer (Leader) and Andrew Loton (Senior Performance Officer) presented the Council's Corporate Plan monitoring report and commitment progress report.

The key areas of questioning related to –

- the provision of information relating to the number of cases of homelessness that had not been prevented;
- the reasons why people had fallen through the net regarding homelessness and the impact this would have on the budget;
- the 'spark lines' (trend graphs) contained within the report;
- the definition of volunteering which related to the performance indicator on the percentage of adult residents who volunteered at least once a month;
- the current number of empty homes within the city.

The committee agreed to include the following items on the Overview and Scrutiny Committees' work programmes –

- (1) housing needs delivery (Place and Corporate Overview and Scrutiny Committee);
- (2) homelessness (Wellbeing Overview and Scrutiny Committee).

38. **Staff Survey 'The View from You'**

Councillor Riley (Cabinet Member for HR/Democracy and Governance/Licensing), Dawn Aunger (Interim Joint Strategic Director for Transformation and Change (Transformation)) and Guy Dickson (Head of Organisational Development) presented the Staff Survey 'The View from You'.

The key areas of questioning related to –

- whether the data gathered was independently analysed;
- the measures being put in place to address the issues highlighted with the survey relating to the Assistant Chief Executive's department;
- whether the appraisal system needed to be reviewed;
- the duration of the survey;
- measures being taken to address staff perception of senior managers.

The committee agreed to recommend to Councillor Riley (Cabinet Member for HR/Democracy and Governance/Licensing) that for the next iteration of the survey the use of an external provider is considered to provide independent verification of the results.

39. **People Strategy**

John Riley (Cabinet Member for HR/Democracy and Governance/Licensing), Dawn Aunger (Interim Joint Strategic Director for Transformation and Change (Transformation)) and Guy Dickson (Head of Organisational Development) presented the People Strategy.

The key areas of questioning related to the –

- quality of information contained with the Equalities Impact Assessment;
- engagement of the trade unions in this process.

The committee agreed –

- (1) the vision and themes of the People Strategy but sought further details relating to the delivery of the Strategy;
- (2) to recommend to the Cabinet Member for HR/Democracy and Governance/Licensing that further work is undertaken on the Equalities Impact Assessment and the workforce information used to populate it.

40. **Waterfront Business Improvement District**

Councillor Jordan (Cabinet Member for Culture), David Draffan (Assistant Director for Economic Development), Patrick Knight (Economy, Partnerships and Regeneration Manager), Chris Arscott (Chairman of the Waterfront BID) and Sarah Gibson (Waterfront Manager and Chief Executive of Plymouth Waterfront Partnership) presented the Waterfront Business Improvement District report.

The key area of questioning related to whether the service level agreements had changed.

The committee having considered the report and advice of officers, supports the Waterfront Business Improvement District proposals and recommends to the City Council that the power of veto, as per Regulation 12 of the Business Improvement District (England) Regulations 2004, is not exercised.

41. **Leaving the EU**

Councillor Bowyer (Leader), Alison Ward (Regional Partnerships Manager) and Sarah Gooding (Policy and Intelligence Adviser) presented the leaving the EU report.

The key areas of questioning related to –

- how 'Brexit' affected the LEP productivity plan;
- the accuracy of the percentages contained within the report relating to the manufacturing sector within the city;
- measures that the council could take to boost or protect the fishing industry for the city;
- including 'Brexit' on the agenda at each meeting;
- whether there had been any implications of British universities not being involved in research proposals due to 'Brexit'.

The committee agreed to circulate the leaving the EU report via email to committee members; any areas of concern highlighted by the report would be included on the agenda.

42. **Tracking Decisions**

The committee noted the progress of its decisions.

43. **Work Programme**

The committee agreed to include the following items on its work programme –

- (1) housing needs delivery (Place and Corporate Overview and Scrutiny Committee);

- (2) homelessness (Wellbeing Overview and Scrutiny Committee);
- (3) a further Select Committee Review relating to Council Tax Support Scheme.

The committee noted the request to have a site visit to the History Centre.