

Scrutiny Management Board

Wednesday 4 August 2021

PRESENT:

Councillor James, in the Chair.
Councillor, Penberthy Vice Chair.
Councillors Bingley, Laing (virtual).

The meeting started at 10.00 am and finished at 12.00 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.

1. **To note the appointment of the Chair for the municipal year 2021/ 2022**

The Board noted the appointment of Councillor David James as Chair for the municipal year 2021/2022.

2. **To appoint a Vice Chair for the municipal year 2021/ 2022**

The Board agreed that Councillor Chris Penberthy be appointed as Vice Chair for the municipal year 2021/22.

3. **Apologies**

There were no apologies received.

4. **Declarations of Interest**

There were no declarations of interest received.

5. **Chair's Urgent Business**

There were no items of Chair's Urgent Business.

6. **Terms of Reference (for information)**

The Board noted the Terms of Reference of the Scrutiny Management Board.

7. **Introductions and priorities for the municipal year (Verbal Report)**

Councillor Nick Kelly (Leader) provided the board an update on his priorities for the year and shared areas of how he felt scrutiny could challenge and assist the executive–

- Finance and Revenue generating ideas;
- Facilities Management and the Corporate Estate;
- Climate Emergency;

- People Budget;
- Placements for young people in care;
- School improvement;
- Member Training and Development;
- Parking/Blue Badges;
- Gypsy and Traveller Policy;
- Equality and Diversity;
- Electric Charging Points;
- CCTV;
- SI06 and CIL.

Councillor Chris Penberthy (Chair of the Performance, Finance and Customer Focus Overview and Scrutiny Committee) updated the board on his priorities for the municipal year –

- Alliance Contract and Homelessness;
- Blue Badges;
- Finances and Financial Risks to the Budget;
- Performance data and KPI's;
- Customer Service Review;
- Business Support Service;
- Facilities Management Review;
- People Strategy;
- Bereavement;
- Domestic Violence;
- Election Bill;

Councillor David James (Chair of the Health and Adult Social Care Overview and Scrutiny Committee) updated the board on his priorities for the municipal year –

- Budget Monitoring;
- GP's;
- Mental Health Services;
- Work Force;
- Demand on services due to ageing population.

Councillor Jemima Laing (Chair of the Education and Children's Social Care Overview and Scrutiny Committee) updated the board on her priorities for the municipal year –

- COVID Recovery and what that means for Children's Services
- Children's Services Improvement Journey;
- Sufficiency Strategy;
- Innovate Contract;
- Recruitment Plan for Children's Services;
- School attainment;
- Educational Landscape in Plymouth;
- Home Education.

Councillor Richard Bingley (Chair of the Brexit, Infrastructure and Legislative Change Overview and Scrutiny Committee) updated the board on his priorities for the municipal year –

- Freezone/Freeport;
- National Marine Park;
- Climate Emergency;
- Transport Planning and Bus Planning;
- Taxi Provision in the City.

8. **Performance discussion**

Andrew Loton (Head of Governance, Performance and Risk) lead a discussion on how the performance team could best support scrutiny -

The Performance, Finance and Customer Focus Overview and Scrutiny Committee would look at the full performance report and would look for trends.

The Board agreed that Performance Advisors be invited to agenda setting meetings so at that point they could see what items were being requested and assist with providing relevant indicators to report authors.

9. **Finance update (Verbal Report)**

Brendan Arnold (Service Director for Finance) provided the Board an update regarding the latest financial position –

The forecast revenue outturn after the application of Covid grants and council mitigating actions was currently estimated at £1.276m over budget, which was a variance of +0.7% against the net budget (+0.2% against the gross budget).

This was the first monitoring report of the 2021/22 reporting cycle and it should be noted that the financial position would fluctuate as we move through the year. Officers and Members would work closely to manage the finances towards a balanced position by the end of the year.

Finance Monitoring Report Month 3 would be considered at August Cabinet and would provide an update on the variance.

Scrutiny Management Board noted the updated and agreed that Financial Monitoring Reports would be provide at every Scrutiny meeting.

10. **Work Programmes (To Follow)**

The board noted the work programmes and agreed that these would be updated following agenda setting meetings taking place.

11. **The Leader's Forward Plan of Key Decisions (for information)**

Jamie Sheldon (Senior Governance Advisor) gave the Board and update on the items that were currently on the Leader's Forward Plan of Key Decisions and Private Business and explained the ways for Scrutiny to be involved.

The Board noted the Leader's Forward Plan of Key Decisions.

