

Cooperative Scrutiny Board

Wednesday 10 July 2013

PRESENT:

Councillor James, in the Chair.

Councillor Mrs Aspinall, Vice Chair.

Councillors Ball, Mrs Bowyer, Casey, Philippa Davey, Sam Leaves, Murphy and Tuffin.

Apologies for absence: Councillors Bowie and Bowyer.

Also in attendance: Giles Perritt (Head of Policy, Performance and Partnerships), Chris Randall (Strategic Finance Manager) and Helen Wright (Democratic Support Officer).

The meeting started at 4.00 pm and finished at 5.25 pm.

Note: At a future meeting, the committee 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.

18. **DECLARATION OF INTEREST**

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

19. **MINUTES**

The Board agreed the minutes of the meetings held on 29 May 2013 and 19 June 2013.

20. **CHAIR'S URGENT BUSINESS**

There were no items of Chair's urgent business.

21. **APPOINTMENT OF CO-OPTED REPRESENTATIVES**

The Board considered the appointment of co-opted representatives for the forthcoming municipal year and agreed to appoint co-opted representatives for specific items on the work programme and for cooperative reviews.

22. **CORPORATE MONITORING REPORT**

The Strategic Finance Manager presented the corporate monitoring report (including HR information) for May 2013, which highlighted the following main areas –

- revenue monitoring position;
- key issues and corrective actions (if required);
- delivery plans;
- revenues and benefits (collection rates);
- capital position;
- HR information (including sickness and workforce head count).

In response to questions raised, it was reported that –

- (a) whilst the forecast overspend of £1.8m was of concern, measures had been put in place to ensure that forecasts were accurate and corrective action was being taken in the areas of overspend, or areas were being identified where expenditure could be reduced;
- (b) the pay award 2013/14 negotiations were being conducted at a national level (as part of the Chancellor's announcement of a public sector pay award of one per cent); however it was noted that information in the public domain would not comprise any negotiations being undertaken;
- (c) information relating to the methodology of how sickness thresholds were determined would be circulated to Members in due course;
- (d) it was difficult to quantify the actual savings that would be achieved by the one day reduction in overall sickness levels; although productivity would be affected by staff sickness, in most cases, additional staff were not appointed to cover sickness.

The Chair thanked the Strategic Finance Manager for attending the meeting.

23. **WORK PROGRAMMES**

The work programme of the Cooperative Scrutiny Board, Ambitious Plymouth, Caring Plymouth, Working Plymouth and Your Plymouth panels were submitted for consideration and approval.

The Board agreed the work programmes for the -

- (1) Ambitious Plymouth panel;
- (2) Caring Plymouth panel subject to the inclusion of the Health Accountability Forum;
- (3) Working Plymouth panel subject to the Chair liaising with the lead officer relating to the necessity of including monitoring items on the programme;
- (4) Your Plymouth panel;

The Board further agreed its work programme subject to the inclusion of the following –

- (5) contract award for the redevelopment of the Civic Centre and business rates – discretionary rates relief (to be considered at its meeting scheduled for 24 July 2013);
- (6) relocation of staff and services from the Civic Centre;
- (7) review of Devon and Somerset Fire and Rescue draft plan 2013/14 and 2014/15;
- (8) Cabinet Member attendance at Board meetings;
- (9) City's MPs attendance at Board meetings.

24. **CALL-INS**

There were no call-ins to consider.

25. **URGENT EXECUTIVE DECISIONS**

There were no urgent executive decisions to consider.

26. **FORWARD PLAN OF KEY DECISIONS AND PRIVATE BUSINESS**

The Board considered the following executive key decisions in the Forward Plan which were scheduled to be discussed at the Cabinet meeting on 6 August 2013 –

- Plymouth Strategic Alcohol Plan 2013-18;
- contract award for the redevelopment of the Civic Centre;
- relocation of staff and services from the Civic Centre;
- business rates: discretionary rates relief;
- role of the city council acting as guarantor to the Ocean Studios;
- improving quality and outcomes, increase choice and control recommendations following consultation;
- contract award for local bus services;
- contract award for domestic abuse victim support, recovery and prevention services;
- contract award for domiciliary care services;
- restructure of two city centre head leases.

The Board agreed to scrutinise the contract award for the redevelopment of the Civic Centre and the business rates discretionary rates relief at its meeting scheduled for 24 July 2013 and to monitor the relocation of staff and services from the Civic Centre (these items to be included on its work programme).

27. **RECOMMENDATIONS**

The Board endorsed and agreed the following recommendations –

(1) with regard to Ambitious Plymouth panel –

- the appointment of co-opted representatives is deferred until the next meeting of the Board (scheduled for 24 July 2013) in order to seek clarification regarding the appointment of statutory and non-statutory co-opted representatives on the panel;
- the work programme;

(2) with regard to the Working Plymouth panel –

- see minute 28 below;
- the work programme subject to the removal of the Outland Road – road closure (evaluation of work).

28. **COOPERATIVE REVIEW**

The Board considered the request for a cooperative review on the Park and Ride bus service submitted by the Working Plymouth panel.

The Board agreed the cooperative review for the Park and Ride bus service.

29. **EXEMPT BUSINESS**

There were no items of exempt business.