

Co-operative Scrutiny Board

Wednesday 17 February 2016

PRESENT:

Councillor James, in the Chair.

Councillor Mrs Aspinall, Vice Chair.

Councillors Mrs Beer, Mrs Bowyer, Jordan, Murphy, Parker-Delaz-Ajete (substitute for Councillor Sam Davey), Ricketts, Storer and Kate Taylor.

Apologies for absence: Councillors Bowie and Sam Davey.

Also in attendance: Lesa Annear (Strategic Director for Transformation and Change), Peter Honeywell (Transformation Architecture Manager), Ross Jago (Lead Officer), Alison Mills (Head of HR Specialist Services), (Councillor Smith (Deputy Leader), Councillor Jon Taylor (Cabinet Member for Transformation and Customer Services), Hannah West (Lead Accountant), Helen Wright (Democratic Support Officer).

The meeting started at 4.00 pm and finished at 6.10 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.

84. **DECLARATION OF INTEREST**

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

85. **MINUTES**

The Board agreed that the minutes of the meetings held on 18 November and 23 December 2015 are confirmed as a correct record.

The Board further agreed that the minutes of the meetings held on 6, 11 and January 2015 are confirmed as a correct record subject to the correct spelling of 'Bobtails'.

86. **CHAIR'S URGENT BUSINESS**

There were no items of Chair's urgent business.

87. **WORK PROGRAMMES**

The Board considered and agreed the following work programmes –

- (1) Ambitious Plymouth Panel;

- (2) Caring Plymouth Panel subject to the inclusion on the work programme of a place of safety for adults;
- (3) Your Plymouth Panel (subject to the Safer Plymouth Partnership Update: Crime Figures slipping to the new municipal year);
- (4) Working Plymouth Panel
- (5) Co-operative Scrutiny Board.

88. **DECISIONS TAKEN UNDER DELEGATED AUTHORITY**

The Board was advised that the Lead Officer in consultation with the Chair and Vice Chair had approved under delegated authority the Co-operative Review for the EU Referendum.

89. **TRACKING DECISIONS**

The Board considered the schedule of decisions and noted the latest position.

The Board sought clarification as to whether a 'score card' for the transformation programme had been provided. The Lead Officer advised that this matter could be raised at the March meeting when the Board would be considering the costs and benefits of the Transformation Programme. (The item would be unmarked as complete).

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

The Board considered the Forward Plan, Key Decisions, Private Business at Cabinet meetings and Policy Framework items from 8 March 2016 to 30 April 2016.

The Board noted the decisions to be taken.

91. **REVENUE MONITORING REPORT 2015/16 - QUARTER THREE**

The Head of Corporate Strategy (David Northey) and the Lead Accountant (Hannah West) presented the revenue monitoring report 2015/16 quarter three which outlined the monitoring position of the Council as at the end of December 2015.

The estimated revenue overspend was £1.348m. The overall forecast net spend equated to £194.357m against a budget of £193.009m which was a variance of 0.7%. This needed to be read within the context of needing to delivery £21m of savings in 2015/16 on the back of balancing the 2014/15 revenue budget where £16m of net revenue reductions were successfully delivered.

The main areas of questioning from Members related to the following –

- (a) the overall clarify of report;
- (b) the favourable impact of the Financial Times Stock Exchange (FTSE)

- on the Council's Treasury Management activities;
- (c) the overall in year shortfall against the POD programme of £1.067m;
 - (d) the funding shortfall of £1m in Delt;
 - (e) the impact of the current £0.82m pressure identified within Learning and Communities on the overall savings required;
 - (f) the budget relating to the independent foster care placements currently 91 (budget for 68) and the budget relating to in-house foster care placements reduced by one to 194 placements against a target of 209;
 - (g) the increased cost of the retendering exercise for the Home to School transport of £0.327m;
 - (h) Whether the overall savings for 2015/16 in order to set a balanced budget would be achieved.

The Board agreed that –

- (1) work will be undertaken with the Lead Accountant on the clarity of future reports;
- (2) the impact on the budget of the targets set for the independent and in-house foster care placements is included on the Ambitious Plymouth Panel's work programme.

The Chair thanked the officers for attending.

92. **SICKNESS ABSENCE REPORT AS AT DECEMBER 2015**

Councillor Smith (Deputy Leader), Lesa Annear (Strategic Director for Transformation and Change) and Alison Mills (Head of Specialist Services) presented the sickness absence report as at December 2015.

The report reviewed the rolling year to date sickness absence, reasons for absence and a summary of approaches to managing sickness absence levels across the authority. Data has also been broken down to review sickness absence by directorate. The average full time equivalent (FTE) days lost was 7.19 (the lowest in the 12 month rolling year to day period).

The main areas of questioning from Members related to the following –

- (a) whether all sickness was being captured correctly;
- (b) whether trends could be identified;

- (c) whether risk assessments were being undertaken to prevent injuries such as musculoskeletal;
- (d) the monetary value of the 4% agency spend.

The Chair thanked Councillor Smith and officers for attending for this item.

93. **CORPORATE PLAN UPDATE**

Each Chair provided an update on the Corporate Plan and the key performance indicators which their panels had scrutinised.

94. **ICT STRATEGY**

Councillor Jon Taylor (Cabinet Member for Transformation and Customer Services), Lesa Annear (Director for Transformation and Change) and Peter Honeywell (Transformation Architecture Manager) presented the ICT Strategy.

The ICT Strategy provided a guide for how Plymouth City Council used its ICT. In the short terms, the most vital requirement for this was enabling the transformational change towards becoming a Brilliant co-operative Council. Brilliant services and savings would result from –

- standardising the way the Council operates (bringing together the same things it does that were currently in separate silos);
- simplify ways of working to ensure the council only did things that added value;
- share ways of working with partners.

The main areas of questioning from Members related to the following –

- (a) the Council's ability to 'keep up' with the rapid changes in technology;
- (b) what measures were being put in place to address the £1m shortfall in Delt's budget;
- (c) the provision of IT equipment for Councillors;
- (d) whether NEW Devon CCG was contributing towards the implementation costs of the integrated health and wellbeing digital platform;
- (e) the measures being put in place, to ensure that customers who did not engage with the Council through using ICT were being protected;
- (f) whether it was the intention of the Council to be paperless in the

near future.

The Chair thanked the Councillor Jon Taylor and officers for attending the meeting.

95. **CALL-INS**

There were no call-ins to consider.

96. **URGENT EXECUTIVE DECISIONS**

The Chair advised that he had signed one urgent key decision regarding the City Strategic Site Acquisition and one urgent decision relating to Homes and Community Agency (HCA) grant for site preparation works at the former Whitleigh Community Centre to deliver starter homes.

The Board noted the decisions.

97. **RECOMMENDATIONS**

The Board was asked to consider the recommendations submitted by the Ambitious Plymouth Panel, Caring Plymouth Panel and Working Plymouth Panel –

The Board agreed the –

- (1) recommendations put forward by the Ambitious Plymouth Panel;
- (2) recommendations put forward by the Caring Plymouth Panel subject to NMW (National Minimum Wage) and NLW (National Living Wage) are written in full;
- (3) recommendations put forward by the Working Plymouth Panel.

98. **CO-OPERATIVE REVIEW(S)**

There were no co-operative review(s) to consider.

Please note: this meeting was webcast <http://council.webcast.vualto.com/plymouth-city-council/home?EventId=14066>

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