

Co-operative Scrutiny Board

Wednesday 9 March 2016

PRESENT:

Councillor James, in the Chair.

Councillor Mrs Aspinall, Vice Chair.

Councillors Mrs Beer, Bowie, Mrs Bowyer, Sam Davey, Jordan, Murphy, Ricketts, Storer and Kate Taylor.

Also in attendance: Les Allen (Head of Transformation Programme), Rob Hume (Senior Projects Manager), Ross Jago (Lead Officer), Councillor Jon Taylor (Cabinet Member for Transformation and Customer Services) and Helen Wright (Democratic Support Officer).

The meeting started at 4.00 pm and finished at 5.30 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.

101. **Declarations of Interest**

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

102. **Minutes**

The Board agreed that the minutes of the meeting held on 19 February 2016 are confirmed as a correct record.

103. **Chair's Urgent Business**

There were no items of Chair's urgent business.

104. **Work Programmes**

The Chair advised that the Board's work programme for 2015/16 had been successfully completed.

105. **Decisions Taken Under Delegated Authority**

Since the last meeting of the Board, no decisions had been taken under delegated authority.

106. **Tracking Decisions**

With regard to minute 100 (the Board meeting held on 19 February 2016), the Board agreed to amend the letter to the Right Honourable Gregg Clark MP to include -

- (1) the following sentence 'the timely preparation and planning of the Council's up to date financial position is essential in order for scrutiny to carry out its role efficiently and effectively';
- (2) copies of the letter to be sent to Mr J Mercer MP, Councillor Bowyer and Councillor Riley.

Councillor Murphy enquired whether a response had been received from Mr J Mercer MP, regarding the letter that had been sent to him by the Chair of the Board on 22 February 2016. The Lead Officer advised that, as yet, no response had been received.

107. **Forward Plan of Key Decisions and Private Business**

On this occasion, no new items had been added to the forward plan of key decisions and private business.

108. **Transformation Programme - Costs, Benefits and Achievements**

Councillor Taylor (Cabinet Member for Transformation and Customer Services) and Les Allen (Head of Transformation Programme) provided the costs, benefits and achievements of the Transformation Programme which highlighted the following key points -

- (a) costs and financial benefits included -
 - challenges;
 - financial position (funding gap December 2013/November 2015);
 - original budget position;
 - 2014/15 net benefits achieved;
 - 2015/16 net benefits;
 - 2016/17 net benefits latest forecast;
 - cumulative effect;
- (b) achievements included -
 - Integrated Health Well Being;
 - Customer Services Transformation;
 - picture of success;
 - Growth, Assets and Municipal Enterprise;
 - People, Organisation and Development;
 - portfolio management;
 - peer review feedback.

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

- (c) whether the commercialisation programme and Delt would achieve their original outcomes;
- (d) how the remaining funding gap would be addressed (the total gap had been £65m), given that the original estimate of £35m was being achieved through the transformation programme (over a three year period);
- (e) whether action was being taken to address the long queues in the First Stop shop;
- (f) the process by which members of staff were able to put forward cost saving ideas and their involvement in this process;
- (g) how the improved performance management in Customer Services had been achieved with fewer members of staff;
- (h) the future use of Douglas House.

109. **Transformation Programme - Progress on the POD Merge**

Councillor Taylor (Cabinet Member for Transformation and Customer Services) and Rob Hume (Senior Project Manager) gave a presentation on the progress of the merge of the People and Organisation Development Programme which included the following key points –

- the People and Organisation Development Programme then and now;
- programme cost reduction;
- benefits target;
- example of timeline.

The main area of questioning from Members relating to whether the reduction in the number of staff related to people directly employed by the Council or consultants.

110. **Strengthening the Overview and Scrutiny Function - Co-operative Review Report**

Ross Jago (Lead Officer) presented the review of scrutiny report which proposed a number of recommendations to strengthen the scrutiny function along with options for structural changes to the Scrutiny Board and its panels to improve effectiveness. The following key points were highlighted –

- (a) the proposals modernised the Overview and Scrutiny function and brought them in line with the Council's values;
- (b) the amendments to the terms of reference would be considered through the recommended implementation plan;

- (c) the recommendations would be submitted to Full Council for consideration.

The Board agreed –

- (1) in principle, recommendations R2 to R17 as outlined in the report;
- (2) to delegate to the lead officer, in consultation with the Chair and Vice Chair, the preparation of an implementation plan to define the tasks, actions and resources required to implement each recommendation;
- (3) to delegate to the lead officer, in consultation with the Chair and Vice Chair the development of a scrutiny training programme;
- (4) to delegate to the lead officer, in consultation with the Chair and Vice Chair the preparation of a report to Council to include the implementation plan and recommended structural option.

(Councillor Kate Taylor abstained from the vote).

111. **EU Referendum Review - Wash Up Session**

At Full Council on 23 November 2015 a motion was debated and agreed which required the Co-operative Scrutiny Board to undertake a review into the EU Referendum. Following this directive the Co-operative Scrutiny Board held a session which scrutinised the advantages and disadvantages of European Union membership on the City of Plymouth.

The Lead Officer, Ross Jago, presented the EU Referendum Review report for the Board's consideration.

The Board agreed to recommend the following to Full Council that -

- (1) the Assistant Director for Learning and Communities encourages schools in Plymouth to hold debates on the EU Referendum;
- (2) the content of the report is forwarded to Full Council on 21 March 2016 as directed by the motion on notice agreed at the meeting on 23 November 2015.

Please note: that the EU Referendum Meeting held on 2 March 2016 can be viewed at - <http://council.webcast.vualto.com/plymouth-city-council/home?EventId=14231>

112. **Call-Ins**

There were no call-ins to consider.

113. **Urgent Executive Decisions**

There were no urgent executive decisions to consider.

114. **Recommendations**

There were no recommendations to consider.

115. **Co-operative Review(s)**

There were no co-operative reviews to consider.

Please note this meeting can be viewed at <http://council.webcast.vualto.com/plymouth-city-council/home/?EventId=14231>

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