

## Overview & Scrutiny Committee – 6 July 2022

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Minutes of the meeting of the **Overview & Scrutiny Committee** held on **6 July 2022** when there were present:-

Chairman: Cllr S A Wilson  
Vice-Chairman: Cllr Mrs J E McPherson

Cllr R P Constable	Cllr J R F Mason
Cllr A H Eves	Cllr R Milne
Cllr Mrs E P Gadsdon	Cllr J E Newport
Cllr J N Gooding	Cllr L J Newport
Cllr Mrs J R Gooding	Cllr M G Wilkinson
Cllr R Lambourne	

### **VISITING MEMBERS**

Cllrs Mrs C E Roe and D J Sperring.

### **APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE**

Apologies for absence were received from Cllrs G W Myers and Cllr D W Sharp.

### **SUBSTITUTES**

Cllr Mrs L Shaw - for Cllr G W Myers

### **OFFICERS PRESENT**

A Hutchings	- Strategic Director
A Law	- Assistant Director, Legal & Democratic
M Hotten	- Assistant Director, Place & Environment
N Lucas	- Assistant Director, Resources
D Goodman	- Team Leader – Strategic Development
S Worthington	- Principal Democratic & Corporate Services Officer
H Lock	- Democratic Services Officer

### **123 MINUTES**

The Minutes of the meeting held on 8 June 2022 were confirmed as a correct record and signed by the Chairman.

### **124 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

There were none.

### 125 #ONETEAM TRANSFORMATION PROGRAMME – STRATEGIC PARTNERSHIP WITH BRENTWOOD BOROUGH COUNCIL

The Committee considered the Report of the Strategic Director providing an update on the progress of the #OneTeam Transformation Programme.

In response to a Member's question, the Strategic Director confirmed that the draft S113 Agreement contained financial protocols which would cover any disparity in cost sharing between the two authorities. The starting point for cost sharing between the two authorities was 50:50.

A Member asked about risks to Rochford District Council (RDC). The Strategic Director confirmed that there would be a Risk Register reporting quarterly to both the Overview & Scrutiny Committee and the Executive, together with an annual report to Council. As part of the quarterly report process, KPIs would be measured.

Another Member asked about risk assessment for RDC staff incurring higher workloads as a result of the #OneTeam Transformation Programme. In response the Strategic Director advised that part of the business case would include amendments to the way service is provided. Any business case would go to peer review before going to the Programme Board for sign-off. Again, this aspect would be captured by annual reporting.

The Strategic Director confirmed that the business case for communications has been stalled for employment related reasons. This would now be implemented at the start of Phase 2 in September 2022.

Responding to a Member question, the Strategic Director advised that whilst it was early in the process, the performance against budget would be monitored by the SRO and be subject to performance reporting.

The Strategic Director advised that the S113 Agreement was the statutory mechanism for local authorities that want to share workforces. The Strategic Director confirmed that officers would work for #OneTeam rather than being employed by RDC/BBC.

The Strategic Director advised that the S113 Agreement was a draft document with certain aspects still to be drafted. These would be finalised before the document is executed.

A Member asked about the cost of redundancies and the Strategic Director advised that this would be considered on a business case by business case basis.

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The Chairman proposed that the Overview & Scrutiny Committee recommend to the Executive that the draft S113 Agreement be approved.

This proposal was seconded by Cllr Mrs J E McPherson and the motion was carried on a vote.

(13 Members voted for and 1 abstained.)

### **Resolved**

- (1) That the Committee noted the progress of the #OneTeam Transformation Programme.

### **Recommended to the Executive**

- (1) That the draft S113 Agreement be approved, as set out in Appendix 4 to the Report.

(13 Members voted for and 1 abstained.)

## **126 LITTER STRATEGY 2022-2025**

The Committee considered the Report of the Assistant Director, Place & Environment outlining the Council's Litter Strategy 2022-25.

Members of the Committee raised various questions to which the Assistant Director, Place & Environment responded as follows:

- The draft legislation that dog waste to be collected separately from other waste has not progressed, so separate contractors are not used for this;
- Inserts for bins to prevent vermin from emptying bins were currently on order and there would be a Report back to Committee on this later this year;
- The figures omitted from the Report would be circulated separately;
- It was hoped to monitor better cleansing by aligning the Litter Strategy with Waste and Resource Action Programme (WRAP) guidance;
- The scale of fines for fly-tipping would be reviewed as part of the enforcement paper to be brought forward later this year.
- It was hoped that the new waste and cleansing contract would bring improved reporting around fly-tipping;
- With regards to graffiti, this was more difficult to enforce, but the Council was aware of hate-crime graffiti and was working with the Police on this issue;
- It was confirmed that the use of income from fines was regulated;
- The Report was a high-level strategy and more detail around enforcement etc. (including budgets) would be forthcoming in a report at a later stage.

A recommendation was made to investigate business sponsorship.

The Vice-Chairman Recommended that the Executive look in detail at the costings of implementation which was seconded by Cllr Mrs E P Gadsdon and upon a vote was carried.

(This was unanimously agreed).

The Chairman proposed the Recommendations in the Report and this was seconded by Cllr Mrs J R Gooding carried.

(This was unanimously agreed).

### **Recommended to the Executive**

- (1) That the draft Litter Strategy be approved as set out in the Appendix to the Report.
- (2) That delegated authority be given to the Assistant Director, Place & Environment, in consultation with the Portfolio Holder for Environment, to oversee the design and layout of the document and to make minor changes to the Litter Strategy in advance of publication.
- (3) That sponsorship from local businesses be investigated.
- (4) That detailed proposals regarding enforcement and costs of implementation be brought back to the Overview & Scrutiny Committee for scrutiny.

Cllrs Mrs C E Roe and D Sperring left the meeting at this point.

### **127 TREASURY MANAGEMENT ANNUAL REVIEW 2021/22**

Members considered the Report of the Assistant Director, Resources summarising the Council's Treasury Management activity for the 2021/22 financial year.

The Chairman proposed that the contents of the report be recommended to Full Council. This was duly seconded by Cllr R Milne and upon a vote was carried.

(This was unanimously agreed).

### **Resolved**

- (1) That the contents of this Report be recommended to Full Council.

### **128 KEY DECISIONS DOCUMENT**

The Committee discussed and noted the contents of the Key Decisions Document.

In response to a Member question about decision 5/22, the Monitoring Officer advised that the decision by the Partnership Panel regarding the Asset

Development Programme (ADP) was one of the options contained in the Report to the Executive. It was the Executive's function to decide the next steps of the ADP.

### 129 WORK PLAN

The Committee discussed and noted the Work Plan.

The Chairman proposed an independent review be commissioned to produce a report on behalf of the Overview & Scrutiny Committee. Information around this would be circulated to Members of this Committee when available.

A Member suggested that members of the public be involved in the scoping.

The Chairman advised that he would be seeking a member volunteer to lead on a review of progress that had been made since the Centre for Governance and Scrutiny report.

Cllr Wilkinson had agreed to lead on a piece of work around enforcement with Cllr McPherson agreement to assist.

A review of the planning process would be forthcoming and someone to lead on this was required.

### 130 LOCAL PLAN TRANSPORT ASSESSMENT

Cllr Mrs L Shaw declared an interest in this Agenda item by virtue of her position as Deputy Portfolio Holder for Highways for Essex County Council.

Cllr Eves outlined reasons for calling in this decision:

- Concerns about using Ringway Jacobs;
- No account had been taken of the transport effect of neighbouring authorities;
- Concerns that there was currently no expectation for large-scale junctions or link road mitigation (paragraph 3.24 of the Report).

The Chairman proposed that this be referred back to the Executive with the Recommendations agreed by the Committee. This was duly seconded by Cllr Mrs J E McPherson and upon a vote was carried.

(12 Members voted in favour and 2 Members abstained).

### Recommended

- (1) That the Executive gives consideration to enable the Planning Policy Committee to explore options for using a company other than Ringway Jacobs; and

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- (2) That the Local Plan Transport Assessment be considered by the Planning Policy Committee.

The meeting closed at 9.15 pm.

Chairman .....

Date .....

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