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Scrutiny Committee

Minutes of a Scrutiny Committee meeting held at 6.00 pm on Wednesday, 6th December, 2023 in the Council Chamber, Town Hall, Matlock, DE4 3NN.

PRESENT

Councillor David Hughes - In the Chair

Councillors: Nigel Norman Edwards-Walker, Gareth Gee, Roger Shelley, Nick Wilton and Peter Dobbs

Helen Mitchell (Director of Corporate and Customer Services (Monitoring Officer)), Mike Hase (Policy Manager), Tommy Shaw (Democratic Services Team Leader), Lucy Harrison (Democratic Services Assistant) and Claire Allen (Corporate Policy Officer)

Note:

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APOLOGIES

Apologies for absence were received from Councillor(s): Peter Slack, Robert Archer, Laura Mellstrom and Nick Whitehead

239/23 - PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

There was no public participation.

240/23 - APPROVAL OF MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING

It was moved by Councillor Nick Wilton, seconded by Councillor Gareth Gee and

RESOLVED (unanimously)

That the minutes of the meeting of the Scrutiny Committee held on 19 October 2023 be approved as a correct record.

Voting

05 For

00 Against

01 Abstentions

The Chair declared the motion **CARRIED**.

241/23 - INTERESTS

There were no declarations of interest.

242/23 - PERFORMANCE MANAGEMENT - CORPORATE PLAN & KEY PERFORMANCE INDICATORS OUTTURN Q1 AND Q2 2023/24

The Policy Manager introduced a report which summarised the outturn performance against the District Council's Corporate Plan targets and Key Performance Indicators for Quarter 1 and Quarter 2. The report highlighted where services had performed strongly and where improvements could be made.

The Current Corporate Plan 2020-24 set out the Council's priorities and areas for improvement, these priority areas were detailed in the report. The plan identified a number of priority targets relating to the specific activities to be undertaken during the relevant financial year. These targets were assigned annually to specific teams and service areas for action, they set out how the Council would meet its annual corporate plan targets. The 25 Corporate Plan actions for 2023/24 were agreed by Council in 2022. Progress during Quarter 1 and Quarter 2 of 2023/24 was set out in Appendix 1.

In addition, there were 12 Key Performance Indicators (KPIs) that measured the District Council's general organisation health. They covered service areas such as determining planning applications in good time, paying bills on time, collecting Council Tax efficiently and paying benefits claims promptly. Appendix 2 provided detail on the progress against the KPIs for Quarter 1 and Quarter 2 of 2023/24.

Table 1 summarised the Corporate Plan actions and KPI results for Quarter 1 and Quarter 2 of 2023/24. It was noted that 66% of the Corporate Plan actions were fully achieved alongside 87% of the Key Performance Indicator targets.

It was moved by Councillor Nick Wilton, seconded by Councillor Peter Dobbs and

RESOLVED (unanimously)

1. That the outturn performance against Q1 and Q2 Corporate Plan targets for 2023/24 be noted.
2. That the outturn performance against Q1 and Q2 Key Performance Indicators for 2023/24 be noted.
3. That quarterly reports continue to be presented to Members of the Scrutiny Committee to highlight progress, demonstrate good performance, and address areas for improvement.

4. That a working group be established to further investigate, and determine any required alterations to, the current Key Performance Indicators, and that Group Leaders be contacted to ask for nominations to this working group.

The Chair declared the motion **CARRIED**.

Councillor Edwards-Walker left the meeting at 18:43pm.

243/23 - SCOPING ASSESSMENT - FUTURE WORKFORCE FOR DERBYSHIRE DALES DISTRICT COUNCIL

The Director of Corporate and Customer Services introduced a scoping assessment for a scrutiny exercise to investigate proposals for the future workforce of the Council. The scoping assessment outlined a piece of work designed to address the acute workforce challenges being faced by the Organisation, specifically relating to difficulties in the recruitment and retention of staff in key service areas of the Authority.

A report had previously been presented to Council, and subsequently to this Committee, which discussed in detail the issues relating to organisational resilience, resources and priorities. That report outlined several potential options for consideration which aimed to deliver a package of measures to aid the recruitment and retention of staff, to ensure that the Council would be adequately resourced to deliver its core services and priorities.

Following consideration of that report, it had become apparent that further Member involvement would be beneficial in determining solutions to both the acute and long-term workforce challenges being face by the Organisation. It was therefore proposed that a group of Members be established to further investigate these challenges and produce recommendations to be considered by a future meeting.

It was moved by Councillor David Hughes, seconded by Councillor Gareth Gee and

RESOLVED (unanimously)

That a task and finish group be established to undertake the proposed piece of work relating to the recruitment and retention challenges being faced by the Authority, and that a report be produced detailing their recommendations, to be presented to future meeting of this Committee.

The Chair declared the motion **CARRIED**.

244/23 - SCOPING ASSESSMENT - EXPERIENCES OF FLOODING WITHIN THE DERBYSHIRE DALES

The Director of Corporate and Customer Services presented Members with a revised terms of reference relating to a Scrutiny review discussed at its previous meeting. The Chair noted that the spirit of those amendments were to ensure Members were commencing the review in an independently minded fashion without prejudging outcomes.

This review would focus on exploring the inputs of those organisations with responsibilities for flood and water management such as the Lead Local Flood Authority, its relationship with the Local Planning Authority and the experiences of flooding incidents by residents and businesses though engaging with the public.

The outputs of this review should affect change in the way that those organisations support the Local Planning Authority throughout the development management process and its Members to transact their responsibilities.

It was noted that North East Derbyshire District Council were interested in contributing to the review given an ongoing issue in the Clay Cross area.

It was moved by Councillor Nick Wilton, seconded by Councillor Gareth Gee

RESOLVED (unanimously)

To adopt the revised terms of reference as tabled at the meeting.

The Chair declared the motion **CARRIED**.

It was then moved by Councillor David Hughes, seconded by Councillor Roger Shelley and

RESOLVED (unanimously)

That a task and finish group be established to undertake the proposed piece of work relating to the experiences of flooding within the district, and that a report be produced detailing their recommendations, to be presented to future meeting of this Committee. The task group should be populated with Members who are not on the Planning Committee.

The Chair declared the motion **CARRIED**.

245/23 - UPDATED SCRUTINY WORK PROGRAMME 2023/24

The Director of Corporate and Customer Services introduced the updated Scrutiny Work Programme for 2023/24.

It was recommended that the Waste Collection Contract be removed from the work programme, as work was taking place outside the Scrutiny Committee via which it was planned that a working group of Members would investigate this issue.

It was also proposed that the development of a new set of Key Performance Indicators would be added to the Scrutiny work programme for the next municipal year.

The Committee were informed of an additional proposed topic to be investigated, this proposed exercise sought to determine any indirect discrimination within the policies and practices of the Council. It was noted that this would be added to the work programme.

Meeting Closed: 7.07 pm

Chair