

# MINUTES OF SCRUTINY COMMITTEE

3 OCTOBER 2022

## PRESENT:

### Members of the Committee:

Councillors Eccleson (Chair), Harrington (substitute for Councillor Mrs O'Rourke), Lawrence, Mahoney, Mrs New and Mrs Parker

### Officers:

Mannie Ketley (Chief Executive), Aftab Razzaq (Chief Officer – Legal and Governance) Claire Preston (Chief Officer – Operations and Traded Services) and Linn Ashmore (Democratic Services Officer)

**Also in attendance:** Councillor Miss Lawrence (Portfolio Holder for Operations and Traded Services)

## 11. MINUTES

The minutes of the meeting held on 18 July 2022 were approved and signed by the Chair.

## 12. APOLOGIES

Apologies for absence from the meeting were received from Councillor Mrs O'Rourke.

## 13. ANNUAL PERFORMANCE REPORT

Councillor Lowe, Leader of the Council, and the Chief Executive attended the meeting to present key achievements from the last financial year from a presentation on Delivering the Corporate Strategy 2021/22.

Some key points raised included:

### *Climate Change and the Environment*

Two major pieces of work included the Climate Emergency Strategy and a Climate Change Supplementary Planning Document that was currently in the process of being developed.

A reserve of £1m was set aside towards efficiency projects. Details of specific schemes would be brought to Members.

### *Economy*

The Town Centre Spatial Strategy was expected to be considered by Council in December. Part of this piece of work will look at all Council assets including the Town Hall site.

As part of the Town Centre Action Plan, the work of the five town centre action working groups resulted in a number of recommendations. This will be a long term piece of work with further work being carried out by the working groups.

### *Health and Communities*

One key action related to the cost of living crisis. The introduction of RentSense software has provided a specific focus and support for those in financial difficulty. The Council's collection rate was currently at 95%.

In seeking health equality officers were working with stakeholders including Police, NHS and Warwickshire County Council to hold community engagement events with residents in Benn and New Bilton Wards to initially focus on more deprived areas. Reports would be brought over the coming months with proposed actions in these locations.

### *Organisation*

Work was underway in reshaping the wider organisation based on the Rugby Blueprint. Staff engagement and a survey carried out resulted in a series of principles aimed at changing how the organisation operates and looks. There will be a focus on performance management which was an area officers were not familiar with before. This may not relate to every level. This was a large piece of work allowing service areas to identify their own performance indicator measures and successes.

The transformation programme was established to support the Council with financial challenges. Reports would be prepared in the coming months with details on specific projects.

The Leader of the Council and the Chief Executive answered a range of questions put to them by the Committee.

**RESOLVED THAT** – the Leader and Executive Director be thanked for the presentation and attending the meeting.

## **14. OPERATIONS AND TRADED SERVICES - PERFORMANCE AND DISCUSSION WITH THE PORTFOLIO HOLDER**

A briefing paper regarding the Operations and Traded Services Portfolio was circulated to the Committee prior to the meeting.

The Portfolio Holder and Chief Officer for Operations and Traded Services were present at the meeting and answered questions from the Committee on the briefing paper and matters relating to the portfolio area.

The Committee were informed that the Mayor and driver were due to test an electric demonstrator vehicle and staff from the Albert Street site would be relocated to the Town Hall by the end of the month. The shipping containers would also be removed to clear the site.

**RESOLVED THAT** – the Portfolio Holder and Chief Officer be thanked for the detailed briefing paper and attending the meeting.

## **15. REVIEW OF ACCESS TO EMERGENCY HEALTH CARE PROVISION AND MOTION FROM COUNCIL**

The Committee received a report marked to follow on the agenda (Part 1 – agenda item 5) regarding a revised scoping paper for the review.

The Committee had requested that the scoping paper for a review on the topic of emergency health care provision be broadened. However, on 19 July,

Council referred a motion to Scrutiny Committee on West Midlands Ambulance Service response times.

It was agreed that there were overlapping themes and the review should be re-scoped to encompass the motion and avoid any duplication of work. It was noted that representatives from University Hospital of Coventry and Warwickshire were due to attend a discussion with Members in the near future. The scoping paper should be reviewed once this had taken place.

**RESOLVED THAT** – the scope of the review be revised, and an amended scoping paper included on the agenda of the next meeting.

## **16. OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY WORK PROGRAMME**

The Committee received a report and a table listing future work programme topics, items due to be scheduled and outlining the current position of reviews (Part 1 – agenda item 7).

There were several motions from Council referred to Scrutiny Committee which would be included in the work programme for the next meeting.

The role of the Committee was to act as a board to oversee the work programme. Scrutiny review work should be delegated down to individual task and finish groups made up of non-executive members of the Council. The groups would carry out the review work and report back to the Committee.

The attendance of portfolio holders was an important part of the role of the Committee in holding the Executive to account. Members of the Committee should submit question to be answered by the portfolio holders in advance of the meetings and only supplementary questions asked at the meeting.

**RESOLVED THAT** – the work programme be updated as minuted above.

**CHAIR**