

**OVERVIEW SCRUTINY GROUP  
10TH SEPTEMBER 2018**

PRESENT: The Chair (Councillor Capleton)  
The Vice Chair (Councillor Ranson)  
Councillors Bradshaw, Brookes and Paling

Councillors Barkley (Deputy Leader of the Council  
and Cabinet Lead Member for Finance and  
Property Services) and Harper-Davies (Cabinet  
Lead Member for Performance of Major Contracts)

Chief Executive  
Head of Cleansing and Open Spaces  
Strategic Director of Corporate Services  
Strategic Director of Neighbourhoods and  
Community Wellbeing  
Democratic Services Officer (NA)

APOLOGIES: Councillor Sutherland

The Chair stated that the meeting would be recorded and the sound recording subsequently made available via the Council's website. He also advised that, under the Openness of Local Government Bodies Regulations 2014, other people may film, record, tweet or blog from this meeting, and the use of any such images or sound recordings was not under the Council's control.

18. MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING

The minutes of the meeting of the Group held on 13th August 2018 were confirmed as a correct record and signed.

19. DISCLOSURES OF PECUNIARY AND PERSONAL INTEREST

No disclosures were made.

20. DECLARATIONS OF THE PARTY WHIP

No declarations were made.

21. QUESTIONS UNDER SCRUTINY COMMITTEE PROCEDURES 11.16

No questions were submitted.

22. ENVIRONMENTAL SERVICES CONTRACT - OPTIONS FOR DELIVERY FROM JUNE 2020

A report of the Strategic Director of Neighbourhoods and Community Wellbeing considering the two aspects of the Environmental services contract: the options available to the Council for future delivery from June 2020 and the options around the

ownership of the fleet required for the provision of the contract was discussed by the Group. (item 06A on the agenda filed with these minutes).

The Lead Member for Major Contracts, The Strategic Director of Neighbourhoods and Community Wellbeing and the Head of Cleansing and Open Spaces attended the meeting to assist with consideration of the item and gave the following responses to issues raised:

- (i) A blended funding approach would be taken to purchase the fleet required and money would be sued from the Council's reserve fund and borrowing.
- (ii) The procurement process will captured all the specification requirements for the new vehicles such as the range and size. The vehicles transferred over to the new fleet would be the latest models and have a larger capacity for refuse collection.
- (iii) The Group was advised that the project group had considered alternatives to extending the current contract but it was felt that Serco were providing a good service and they were established in the market so were the best option.

**RESOLVED** that the Cabinet be informed that the Group supports the recommendations as set out in the report of the Strategic Director of Neighbourhoods and Community Wellbeing.

#### Reason

Having considered the report and asked questions of the Lead Member for Major Contracts, the Strategic Director of Neighbourhoods and Community Wellbeing and the Head of Cleansing and Open Spaces on the matter, the Group concluded that it would be appropriate for the Cabinet to approve the recommendations set out in the report.

### 23. PARTICIPATION IN PILOT SCHEME - 75% BUSINESS RATE RETENTION

A report of the Strategic Director for Corporate Services setting out the case for the Council's participation in a pilot scheme in which a substantial element of government funding would be received by retaining 75% of business rates collected was considered by the Group (item 06B on the agenda filed with these minutes).

The Lead Member for Finance and Property Services and the Strategic Director for Corporate Services attended the meeting to assist with consideration of this item and gave the following responses to the issues raised:

- (i) It was clarified that the Council would still receive at least 95% of its funding under the new scheme but may lose some of the grant funding. This would mean a potential loss but it was felt unlikely that would happen.
- (ii) There were no cost implications to the Council in applying to join the pilot scheme and as a pool arrangement already existed some of the potential issues were already known.

**RESOLVED** that the Cabinet be informed that the Group supports the recommendations as set out in the report of the Strategic Director of Corporate Services.

Reason

Having considered the report and asked questions of the Lead Member for Finance and Property Services and the Strategic Director of Corporate Services on the matter, the Group concluded that it would be appropriate for the Cabinet to approve the recommendations set out in the report.

24. OVERVIEW SCRUTINY GROUP PRE-DECISION SCRUTINY - CABINET RESPONSE

A report of the Cabinet was considered setting out its responses to the recommendations of the Group on pre-decision scrutiny items (item 7 on the agenda filed with these minutes).

**RESOLVED** that the Cabinet's responses to the Group's recommendations be noted.

Reason

The Group was satisfied that it added value where appropriate and welcomed the Cabinet's consideration of the Group's views and recommendations as part of its decision making process.

25. WORK PROGRAMME

A report of the Head of Strategic Support was considered, to enable the Group to consider its work programme and forthcoming Key Decisions and decisions to be taken in private by the Cabinet in order to schedule items for pre-decision scrutiny and to provide an opportunity for members of the Group to raise suggestions on issues for scrutiny (in addition to pre-decision scrutiny) which fell within the Group's remit, for scheduling by Scrutiny Management Board (item 8 on the agenda filed with these minutes).

The Group considered the report (and further information on the forthcoming Key Decisions and decisions to be taken in private by the Cabinet provided by the Chief Executive at this meeting) and agreed to schedule items for pre-decision scrutiny prior to the next Cabinet meeting.

**RESOLVED** that the Group's current work programme be noted and there were no changes.

Reason

To ensure effective and timely scrutiny, either to provide Cabinet with advice prior to it taking a decision or to ensure that the Council and external public service providers and partners were operating effectively for the benefit of the Borough.

NOTES:

1. No reference may be made to these minutes at the Council meeting on 5<sup>th</sup> November 2018 unless notice to that effect is given to the Democratic Services Manager by five members of the Council by noon on the fifth working day following publication of these minutes.
2. These minutes are subject to confirmation as a correct record at the next meeting of the Overview Scrutiny Group.