

SCRUTINY COMMISSION
3RD JUNE 2019

PRESENT: The Chair (Councillor Hunt)
 The Vice Chair (Councillor Draycott)
 Councillors Baines, Bolton, Parsons and Rattray

Councillor Barkley (Lead Member for Finance and
Property Services)

Strategic Director of Corporate Services
Chief Executive
Democratic Services Officer (NA)

APOLOGIES: Councillor Bailey

The Chair stated that the meeting would be recorded and the sound recording subsequently made available via the Council's website. She 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.

1. DECLARATIONS OF PECUNIARY AND PERSONAL INTERESTS

No disclosures were made.

2. DECLARATIONS OF THE PARTY WHIP

No declarations were made.

3. QUESTIONS UNDER SCRUTINY COMMITTEE PROCEDURES 11.16

No questions were submitted.

4. AGENDA VARIANCE

At the agreement of the Chair the following agenda item was moved forward:
Revenues and Benefits – Future Service Delivery.

5. EXEMPT INFORMATION

RESOLVED that members of the public be excluded from the meeting during the consideration of the following item on the grounds that it would involve the likely disclosure of exempt information as defined in Paragraph 3 of Part 1 of Schedule 12A to the Local Government Act 1972 and it is considered that the public interest in maintaining the exemption outweighs the public interest in disclosing the information.

At this point in the meeting the sound recording was switched off.

6. REVENUES AND BENEFITS - FUTURE SERVICE DELIVERY

An exempt report of the Head of Customer Experience was considered regarding the future of the Revenues and Benefits Service delivery from February 2020 (item 12 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 the item.

A summary of the Group's discussion on this matter is provided in the exempt minute (Scrutiny Commission 1E 2019/20).

RESOLVED that the Cabinet be informed that the Commission supports the recommendations as set out in the report of the Head of Customer Experience.

Reason

The Commission, having carefully considered and asked questions on the report felt Cabinet should approve the recommendations set out in the report.

7. PUBLIC RE-ADMITTED

RESOLVED that members of the public be re-admitted to the meeting as the rest of the items were not exempt.

At this point the sound recording resumed.

8. NEW SCRUTINY COMMITTEE STRUCTURE - TERMS OF REFERENCE

A report of the Head of Strategic Support was considered regarding the remit and terms of reference for the new Committee (item 5 on the agenda filed with these minutes).

The Democratic Services Manager attended the meeting to assist with consideration of the item and gave the following responses to issues raised:

- (i) The scrutiny of the Council's budget would be undertaken by the Corporate Services Scrutiny Committee. It was agreed that the committee would decide on how to delegate the work of the budget scrutiny process, whether a panel would be appointed or the work would be completed by the committee members.
- (ii) The Commission agreed that the focus of the Committee's work should be to look at improvements and to improve outcomes.

RESOLVED that the report be noted by the committee.

Reason

To acknowledge the committee's consideration of the subject.

9. TOPICS FOR SCRUTINY IN THE 2019/20 COUNCIL YEAR

There was a verbal discussion by the committee on the topics they felt should be the focus in 2019/20.

The following topics were submitted for consideration:

- Crime and Anti-social behaviour in the borough– focusing on car crime and theft, burglaries, drug crime, youth crime and anti-social behaviour problems and working with youth services
- Waste services and waste management – looking at how to improve recycling in the Charnwood area with the help of partner organisations
- Activities associated with generating commercial income
- Parking enforcement enhancement
- Childhood obesity and how the Council can work with leisure and sports services to tackle the issue
- Mental Health issues
- Digitalisation and transformation of the Council's services
- Supporting the enterprise zones and science park
- A regular contract review to check progress with the Council's housing capital programme contract
- A review of the Children's centres and their implications

RESOLVED

1. that following the meeting the Democratic Services Officer provide further information to the Commission on the topics discussed. This will be in relation to any training sessions or upcoming reports that may assist the Commission in selecting their topics.

3. that a selection of topics be agreed by the Commission before the next meeting and those topics be brought to the next Scrutiny Commission meeting to be discussed further

Reason

1. To assist the Commission with prioritising their selection of topics.
2. To enable the Commission to develop their topic ideas into Panel suggestions.

10. SCRUTINY WORK PROGRAMME

A report of the Head of Strategic Support was considered to agree the Scrutiny Work Programme for the committees including any amendments to the current work programme.

The committee also considered a scrutiny panel request to establish a panel to scrutinise the delivery of affordable housing, proposed by a former Councillor. It was decided not to take the panel forward.

RESOLVED that the Scrutiny Work Programme be updated with the decisions taken at this meeting.

Reason

To ensure that the information contained in the Work Programme is up to date.

11. SCRUTINY COMMISSION WORK PROGRAMME

A report of the Head of Strategic Support was considered, to enable the Commission 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 (item 8 on the agenda filed with these minutes).

RESOLVED that the Group's current work programme be noted and updated following this meeting, in accordance with the decisions taken during consideration of this item and at this meeting and any items of pre-decision scrutiny that require changing due to their reprogramming by the Cabinet.

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.

12. PRE-DECISION SCRUTINY OF ANY SPECIFIC FINANCIAL MATTERS TO BE CONSIDERED BY CABINET

There were no items of this nature on the Cabinet agenda for the Commission to consider.

13. PRE-DECISION SCRUTINY - CABINET RESPONSE

As this was the first meeting of the Scrutiny Commission it had not yet undertaken any pre-decision scrutiny and there were no responses from the Cabinet to report.

NOTES:

1. No reference may be made to these minutes at the Council meeting on 24th June 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 Scrutiny Commission.