

Minutes



To: All Members of the Resources and Performance Cabinet Panel, Chief Executive, Chief Officers, All officers named for 'actions'

From: Legal, Democratic & Statutory Services
Ask for: Elaine Manzi
Ext: 28062

RESOURCES AND PERFORMANCE CABINET PANEL

WEDNESDAY 12 FEBRUARY 2020 AT 10:00AM

ATTENDANCE

MEMBERS OF THE PANEL

J Billing; E H Buckmaster; F Button; H K Crofton; R C Deering (*Vice-Chairman*); A J S Mitchell; R Sangster (*Chairman*); R H Smith; S J Taylor; A D Williams; T J Williams; P M Zukowskyj

OTHER MEMBERS IN ATTENDANCE

Upon consideration of the agenda for the Resources and Performance Cabinet Panel meeting 12 February 2020 as circulated, copy annexed, conclusions were reached and are recorded below.

DECLARATION OF INTERESTS

Declarations were made by EH Buckmaster; S J Taylor; T J Williams & P M Zukowskyj in respect to Item 3. These are recorded at the beginning of Item 3.

PART I ('OPEN') BUSINESS

		ACTION
1.	MINUTES	
1.1	The Part I and Part II minutes of the meeting on 13 December 2019 at 9.30am and the Part I minutes of the meeting on 13 December 2019 at 2pm were agreed by the Panel as a correct record and signed by the Chairman.	
2.	PUBLIC PETITIONS	
2.1	There were no public petitions.	

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3.	<p>INTEGRATED PLAN 2020/21 - 2023/24; RESOURCES & PERFORMANCE</p> <p>Officer Contact- Steven Pilsworth- Assistant Director- Finance (Tel: 01992 555737)</p>	
	<p>DECLARATION OF INTERESTS</p> <p>All Members who have a disclosable pecuniary interest arising from an allowance from the County Council, another local authority in Hertfordshire, or a body to whom they have been appointed by the County Council, have received a dispensation to allow them to participate in debate and vote on the Integrated Plan.</p> <p>All Members have been granted a dispensation to participate in debate and vote in any business of the County Council relating to setting the council tax or precept when they would otherwise be prevented from doing so in consequence of having a beneficial interest in land which is within the administrative area of Hertfordshire or a licence (alone or jointly) to occupy such land. The following declarations were made:</p> <p>E H Buckmaster Is a Board Member of the Hailey Centre in Sawbridgeworth, his daughter works for the Library Service, His wife is a volunteer for the community Library in Sawbridgeworth. She is also chair of Sawbridgeworth Young Peoples Recreation Centre which hosts YC sessions.</p> <p>S J Taylor Councillor Stevenage Borough Council Member Local Government Association Member Joint Negotiating Committee for Local Government Employers District Councils Network East of England Regional Employers Chair Member Co-op Councils Innovation Network Betty Game Opportunity Trust (Trustee) Member Unison (Herts Police branch) Member Co-operative Party Member Labour Party</p> <p>T J Williams Due to the over-arching nature of the R&P portfolio reiterated interests that he had declared on the Member's Portal that all in some way have dealings with Herts County Council:-</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Watford Sheltered / Workshop Ltd 2. Palace Theatre Ltd 3. Hertfordshire Waste Partnership 	

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	<p>4. Hertfordshire Sustainability Forum</p> <p>5. St Joan of Arc RC School</p> <p>6. Member of Watford Borough Council</p> <p>P M Zukowskyj Is also a member of Welwyn Hatfield Borough Council, as such there is an interest in that it is part of the business rates pool, as well as other flows of funds between the two bodies.</p>	
3.1	<p>The Panel received the County Council's draft Integrated Plan (IP) for 20120/21 – 2023/24 and was invited to comment to Cabinet on its content and proposals, including the areas which related specifically to Resources and Performance portfolio. Prior to the meeting Members had received and considered the following documents: (i) a report containing the headline outcomes of public engagement and consultation in relation to the Plan; (ii) the Integrated Plan, including a report on those areas specifically related to Resources and Performance functions; (iii) comments from service Cabinet Panels, where those aspects of the Plan relating to individual services had been considered and discussed; (iv) comments from the Overview and Scrutiny Committee, following scrutiny of the Plan on 22 January 2020, where evidence was gathered, and on 30 January 2020 when it agreed its comments and suggestions for Cabinet's consideration.</p>	
3i	PUBLIC ENGAGEMENT AND CONSULTATION	
3.2	<p>Members noted the Public Engagement Document, which outlined the results of the public engagement and consultation regarding the Council's budget and spending priorities for 2020/21 and beyond.</p>	
3.3	<p>In response to Member challenge, Members were assured that officers were considering options to reduce the amount of paper used for council meetings. It was noted that due to the complexity of the Integrated Plan, this may still require printing to enable Members and officers to navigate the detail.</p>	
3.4	<p>In answer to a Member question, it was acknowledged that it was worth noting that ensuring the results of the survey were truly representative of the Hertfordshire population was challenging due to the fact that residents self-select whether they wish to participate in the survey. The Panel were pleased to note that the amount of people engaging online had increased to 5,784. It was</p>	

	confirmed that paper copy surveys had also been completed by residents unable to access online services.	
3.5	Further to discussion, it was agreed that officers would consider including a question on the budget as part of the telephone survey of residents scheduled to take place in Autumn 2020.	
3ii	INTEGRATED PLAN 2019/20 – 2022/23	
3.6	Members considered the reports published in relation to the Integrated Plan and officers provided a headline overview.	
3.7	In response to a Member challenge, officers explained that the risk register was last updated in February 2019, and at that time there was greater uncertainty with regards to future funding from central government. Members were advised that since then, the situation had improved slightly, and in September 2019, the Council had received confirmation that they would be receiving £50m more than expected from central government. It was stressed to Members that despite this improved position, the Council still had a £36m funding gap for 2023/24, and there was still uncertainty regarding funding for future years.	
3.8	Further to discussion it was confirmed that officers, the Leader and Executive Members would continue to liaise with central government to push for a resolution on policies such as Fair Funding, the Spending Review and the Future of Social Care to enable more informed discussion and decisions to be made on budgetary forecasting and planning.	Leader Executive Members Officers
3.9	A Member comment that officers should consider the foreword of a draft public document outlining the Council's services was noted. It was highlighted that the foreword had indicated that the Council were 'financially robust', which it was felt may be better worded given the discussions heard in Panel.	
3.10	The Panel discussed the variance in policies between the UK and Europe with regards to building new homes, and noted that the 'New Homes Bonus' provided within the UK was due to be reviewed soon,	
3.11	In response to a Member question, it was agreed that the Chairman would raise with Cabinet the prospect of receiving funding from central government with regards to supporting the environmental improvements within the county.	Ralph Sangster
3iii	INTEGRATED PLANNING PROCESS 2020/21 - 2023/24: COMMENTS FROM SERVICE CABINET PANELS	

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3.12	The Cabinet Panel considered a report which outlined comments in relation to the IP from each of the service Cabinet Panels.	
3.13	A Member comment supporting the points made in the Highways and Environment panel feedback regarding the challenges associated with the decreasing Highways Locality Budget was noted.	
3.14	Further to discussion it was agreed that officers would consult with the Director of Public Health to establish whether there had been any indication of any funding streams becoming available from central government in the event of the coronavirus becoming a pandemic in the UK.	Elaine Manzi
3.15	Members also noted the comments made under the Growth, Infrastructure, Planning & The Economy (GrIPE) Cabinet Panel feedback regarding the investment and savings associated with the implementation of Integrated Transport Unit (ITU). This was on track to be established by July 2020. This would be monitored by GrIPE as appropriate.	
3iv	SCRUTINY OF THE INTEGRATED PLAN PROPOSALS 2020/21 – 2023/24	
3.16	The Panel acknowledged a report from the Overview and Scrutiny Committee which detailed the evidence gathered by the eight portfolio groups with recommendations to Cabinet on the draft Integrated Plan.	
3.17	Members expressed cross party disappointment at the management of the IP Scrutiny Process in January 2020, focusing on the following areas of concern: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Members had not been permitted to effectively contribute to the discussion within the individual group sessions; and felt that any suggestions or questions had been curtailed by group chairmen; • Group Members, Executive Members and Lead Officers felt the outcomes and recommendations listed did not reflect the discussions held, and did not provide detail of who was assigned to undertake them; • Recommendations were mainly made regarding future budget plans, minimal for 2020/21 budget; • Discussion in the Council Chamber on Day 2 of the Scrutiny was restricted and did not allow for feedback or 	

	<p>explanation from Executive Members, Lead Officers or Opposition Members, thus not enabling effective Member engagement or input into the scrutiny process.</p>	
3.18	<p>The Chairman reminded Members that it was not in the Panel's remit to direct the management of the Overview & Scrutiny Committee but stated that comments would be feedback as appropriate.</p>	<p>Ralph Sangster/ Scott Crudgington</p>
3.19	<p><u>CONCLUSION</u></p> <p>The Panel commented on and approved to Cabinet the proposals relating to the Integrated Plan in respect of Resources and Performance.</p>	
3.20	<p>The Panel identified issues that it felt that Cabinet should consider in finalising the Integrated Plan proposals.</p>	
4.	<p>FINANCE BUDGET MONITOR - QUARTER 3</p> <p>Officer Contact- Steven Pilsworth- Assistant Director- Finance (Tel: 01992 555737)</p>	
4.1	<p>Members received the Finance Budget Report for Quarter 3 summarising the 2019/20 position against revenue and capital budgets and highlighting key areas of risk to prompt the discussion for actions to be taken.</p>	
4.2	<p>In response to a Member challenge, it was acknowledged that due to the timeframe required to secure and develop appropriate accommodation, the overspend highlighted in respect to Children Look After placements would not be mitigated in the 2020/21 budget. Members were reminded of the discussion regarding the challenges regarding this held at the September 2019 Panel.</p>	
4.3	<p>Further to a Member comment, it was agreed that officers would request that a further paper be presented to Panel to examine if the increase in residential placements overspend, was any way linked to the underspend in the fostering budget. Members expressed concern that there may be an issue with regards to foster parent recruitment and retention that may be having an impact on fostering placements, this requiring the need for more expensive residential placements.</p>	<p>Elaine Manzi</p>

4.4	The Panel were advised that the pressure highlighted in respect to the increasing number of self funders within Adult Social Care was difficult to predict due to the unknown personal financial position of service users and their families until they contacted the Council requesting support. It was further advised that it was hoped that the government's paper on the 'Future of Social Care' would also provide officers with further insight on how this increasing challenge would be managed in future years.	
4.5	During discussion, it was highlighted that there was a shortfall of the payment of chargeable Adult Care Services by service users, which inevitably affected cash flow. In response to a Member question, it was agreed that officers would contact the Director of Adult Care Services to establish whether interest was charged on any outstanding debt.	Elaine Manzi
4.6	During discussion, Members highlighted the underspend within the Public Health Budget in respect to initiatives and commissioning and asked if it was possible to use the underspend to fund issues such as supporting strategies to tackle the increasing issues arising for children and young people's mental health. It was agreed that officers would contact the Director of Public Health to establish whether the funding was ringfenced or could be transferred to other areas. It was highlighted that the Health and Wellbeing Board had at its meeting in January 2020 discussed the issue of children and young people's mental health and had received information regarding successful pilot schemes within schools.	Elaine Manzi
4.7	<u>CONCLUSION</u> Members noted the Quarter 3 Finance Budget Monitor Report.	
5.	COMPLAINTS AND COMPLIMENTS TO THE COUNTY COUNCIL 2018/2019 Officer Contact: Quentin Baker Chief Legal Officer, (Tel: 01992 556745)	
5.1	Members considered a report outlining compliments and complaints received by the Council in 2018/19.	

5.2	In response to a Member question, it was confirmed that one of the complaints received by the Coroner's Service was in respect to the delay in receiving the results of an autopsy.	
5.3	Further to a Member challenge, it was agreed that officers would consider undertaking a more detailed analysis of equalities data for future reports to enable identification of themes of any complaints that related to protected characteristics as listed within the Equalities Act.	Quentin Baker
5.4	In responding to concerns raised regarding a complaint to Adult Care Services resulting in £3k compensation being paid, it was clarified that this payment was not in respect to an alleged assault, but to compensate for a delay in payments to an individual service user.	
5.5	It was agreed that any additional detailed queries regarding departmental complaints should be directed to the respective Directors of Cabinet Panels as appropriate.	
5.6	A Member's expression of disappointment at the detail contained within complaint regarding the management of nursing mothers at speed awareness courses was noted. Members were pleased to learn of the measures taken to accommodate future service users.	
5.7	Members were pleased to note the low level of complaints received against the Contact Centre (0.01% of all calls) and the fact that 1875 compliments had been received.	
5.8	In response to a Member suggestion, it was agreed that officers would consider the suggestion of implementing departmental follow up e-mails/alert after online or telephone phone queries had concluded to increase the number of compliments received.	
5.9	CONCLUSION: The Annual Compliments and Complaints report for 2018/19 was noted.	
6.	AUDIT COMMITTEE RISK R15 – LAND NO LONGER REQUIRED Officer Contact: Emily White (Head of Strategic Asset Management & Estates)	
6.1	Members received a report providing additional information with the following risk as detailed on the Council's Risk Register: "PROP0018: There is a risk that empty/out of use assets or land owned by the Council which is no longer required for the purpose for which it	

	was bought may not have an active management programme in place. As a result there is a risk of an encroachment, H & S incident to persons or property or some financial impact which could give rise to H &SE action and/or liability claim”	
6.2	The panel were interested to learn that officers had sourced information from the Land Registry, and the central government’s Electronic Property Information Mapping Service (e-PIM) and had transferred written information on to a electronic database.	
6.3	In response to a Member question, it was confirmed that the project was to examine non highways asset land.	
6.4	Further to discussion, it was clarified that any land identified as belonging to the County Council but without strategic asset or value, was offered to district and parish councils for ownership.	
6.5	F Button, Member of the Resources & Performance Cabinet Panel and Chairman of the Audit Committee, thanked and commended officers for the important piece of work being undertaken.	
6.5	CONCLUSION: Members noted the report.	
7.	OTHER PART I BUSINESS None identified.	

QUENTIN BAKER
CHIEF LEGAL OFFICER

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