

SCRUTINY & OVERVIEW COMMITTEE

10TH NOVEMBER 2014

Present: Councillors: George Cockman (Chairman), John Chidlow, David Coldwell, Leonard Crosbie, Brian Donnelly, Duncan England, Brian O'Connell, Kate Rowbottom, David Sheldon, David Skipp

Apologies: Councillors: Philip Circus, Roger Clarke, Laurence Deakins, Diana van der Klugt, Tricia Youtan

Also present: Councillor Roy Cornell

Officer: Katharine Eberhart, Director of Corporate Resources

SO/39 **MINUTES**

The minutes of the meeting of the Committee held on 8th September 2014 were approved as a correct record and signed by the Chairman.

SO/40 **DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

There were no declarations of interest.

SO/41 **ANNOUNCEMENTS FROM THE CHAIRMAN OF THE COMMITTEE OR THE CHIEF EXECUTIVE**

There were no announcements.

SO/42 **REPLIES FROM CABINET/COUNCIL REGARDING SCRUTINY AND OVERVIEW RECOMMENDATIONS**

There were no replies to report.

SO/43 **BUSINESS IMPROVEMENT WORKING GROUP - TO RECEIVE AN UPDATE FROM THE CHAIRMAN AND NOTES OF THE MEETINGS HELD ON 9TH SEPTEMBER AND 14TH OCTOBER 2014**

The Chairman of the Business Improvement Working Group presented the notes of the meetings held on 9th September and 14th October 2014.

The Business Improvement Working Group would complete its review of the historical reasons for the Council's lack of a Five Year Housing Land Supply at its meeting on 25th November 2014. The Chairman of the Working Group would prepare a final report for the Scrutiny and Overview Committee meeting to be held on 12th January 2015.

SO/43 Business Improvement Working Group - to receive an update from the Chairman (continued)

The Working Group had been informed by the Director of Planning, Economic Development and Property that vacant posts in his department had been or would soon be filled, and that salary levels to attract and retain planning officers had been considered. The Working Group would review the progress of the Development Management Improvement Plan at its meeting on 27th January 2105.

RESOLVED

That the notes of the Business Improvement Working Group meetings, held on 9th September and 14th October 2014, be received.

REASON

All notes of Working Group meetings are to be received by the Committee.

SO/44 **CRIME AND DISORDER WORKING GROUP – TO RECEIVE AN UPDATE FROM THE CHAIRMAN AND NOTES OF THE MEETING HELD ON 20TH OCTOBER 2014**

The Chairman of the Crime and Disorder Working Group presented the notes of the meeting held on 20th October 2014.

The Working Group had considered the performance in relation to the Community Safety Partnership action plans for 2013/14. Certain of the CSP partners had been invited to attend the Working Group meeting on 15th December 2014 to discuss performance in delivering their action plans. The Working Group would also discuss the CSP Plan for 2014/15 and the half year performance results.

The Working Group had agreed to request the Scrutiny and Overview Committee to recommend that the Council invite the Sussex Police and Crime Commissioner to attend a meeting with Councillors to answer questions about policing, Police Community Support Officers (PCSOs) workloads and their recent reorganisation, the increase in recorded hate crime, the need to reduce the level of risk to repeat and vulnerable victims (which concerned Members because it no longer had a formal CSP action plan for 2014/15), and any other relevant issues.

RESOLVED

That the notes of the Crime and Disorder Working Group meeting, held on 20th October 2014, be received.

REASON

All notes of Working Group meetings are to be received by the Committee.

SO/45 **FINANCE AND PERFORMANCE WORKING GROUP – TO RECEIVE AN UPDATE FROM THE CHAIRMAN**

The Chairman of the Finance and Performance Working Group reported that the sub-group to review the CIL (Community Infrastructure Levy) process and outcomes had planned to meet on 14th October 2014 but because of low attendance on that occasion the matter would be discussed at the Working Group meeting on 3rd December 2014. The Working Group would make recommendations to the Scrutiny and Overview Committee.

The Working Group had noted that the timetable for the introduction of CIL had changed; it would now come into effect around September 2015.

The Chairman of the Business Improvement Working Group suggested that the Finance and Performance Working Group should, in future, deal with CIL matters to avoid duplication of work by the working groups. The Chairman of the Finance and Performance Working Group agreed.

The emphasis of expedient CIL processes had been discussed by the Working Group. The Chairman of the Business Improvement Working Group reiterated the wish to see a CIL Officer employed; he had highlighted this at previous Committee meetings. Committee Members supported that and suggested a full time CIL Officer would be preferable dependent on what officers felt was required.

The Business Improvement Working Group would oversee the completion of advice on the S106 procedure which would be sent to parish and neighbourhood councils before transferring the remaining tasks in relation to CIL to the Finance and Performance Working Group.

RESOLVED

To note the update given in respect of the Finance and Performance Working Group.

REASON

All Working Group updates are to be received by the Committee.

SO/46 **SOCIAL INCLUSION WORKING GROUP – TO RECEIVE AN UPDATE FROM THE CHAIRMAN AND NOTES OF THE MEETING HELD ON 22ND SEPTEMBER 2014**

The Chairman of the Social Inclusion Working Group presented the notes of the meeting held on 22nd September 2014.

The Home Services Manager for Age UK Horsham District, and the Village Agent for Billingshurst and Shipley had attended the Working Group meeting. The Village Agent scheme had been expanded with another agent working in Rusper and Colgate. The agents were the first point of contact for older people and/or their carers when they required information or support.

SO/46 Social Inclusion Working Group – to receive an update from the Chairman and notes of the meeting held on 22nd September 2014 (continued)

The Working Group had been impressed by the success of the scheme, and the networking with other local organisations.

The Working Group had considered whether and how to undertake a review of the effectiveness of provision for local residents who are financial hardship. Further details for the scope and terms of reference of the proposed review would be discussed at the Working Group meeting on 1st December 2014. The Chairman of the Council reminded Members of the Chairman's Trust; Members, parish councils, Saxon Weald Housing Association, and local charitable organisations would be invited to nominate those in financial hardship who might benefit from funds from the Trust which would be distributed before Christmas 2014.

RESOLVED

That the notes of the Social Inclusion Working Group meeting, held on 22nd September 2014, be received.

REASON

All notes of Working Group meetings are to be received by the Committee.

SO/47 **SOUTHERN RAIL'S PERFORMANCE IN SEVERE WEATHER WORKING GROUP – TO RECEIVE AN UPDATE FROM THE CHAIRMAN AND NOTES OF THE MEETING HELD ON 16TH OCTOBER 2014**

The Chairman of the Southern Rail's Performance in Severe Weather Working Group presented the notes of the meeting held on 16th October 2014.

Representatives of Southern Rail and Network Rail had attended that meeting to update the Working Group. Severe weather during the winter of 2013/14 had included storms, flooding, heavy rainfall, and rising groundwater levels which had resulted in trees and debris on the lines, landslips and four major infrastructure failures. The Working Group recognised the difficulties for rail operators because of adverse weather and the complexities of network.

The Working Group had welcomed the improved methods of communication with the public at times of disruption to rail services. Network Rail had published a Weather Resilience and Climate Change Adaptation Plan for the South East which identified the assets that were vulnerable to weather and particularly those locations adversely affected by the storms and landslips in 2013/14. Network Rail had established a national task force to look at building up resilience in relation to the rail infrastructure. Network Rail and Southern Rail had co-located to a Rail Operating Centre at Three Bridges which had been opened in September 2013.

SO/47 Southern Rail's Performance in Severe Weather Working Group – to receive an update from the Chairman (continued)

Southern Rail had acknowledged that its punctuality needed to improve; passenger dissatisfaction with delays had been highlighted in the findings of the Rail Passenger Survey published in Spring 2014.

The Working Group had questioned how the rail network would manage in the future with increasing numbers of passengers because of new housing developments and about the impact of a possible second runway at Gatwick.

The Chairman thanked Councillor Cornell and the Working Group Members for their work. Members of the Committee welcomed the engagement by Southern Rail and Network Rail. Committee Members discussed the potential increase of pressure on the rail network and infrastructure. Members felt that the possibility of introducing double-decker trains should be considered.

The Committee agreed that the Working Group should continue its work and the useful engagement with Southern Rail and Network Rail. The Committee agreed to expand the Working Group's remit beyond performance in severe weather to consider the general performance of the rail network and services. Additional Councillors could be invited to become Members of the Working Group which would meet on an annual basis. Its terms of reference would be expanded to allow the Working Group to initiate discussions about increasing capacity on the rail network and to communicate with other local councils on this matter. The Working Group's revised terms of reference and timetable would be presented to the Committee meeting on 12th January 2015.

RESOLVED

- (i) To extend the remit of the Southern Rail's Performance in Severe Weather Working Group
- (ii) That the notes of the Southern Rail's Performance in Severe Weather Working Group meeting, held on 16th October 2014, be received.

REASON

All notes of Working Group meetings are to be received by the Committee.

SO/48 HEALTH PROVISION WORKING GROUP – TO RECEIVE AN UPDATE FROM THE CHAIRMAN AND NOTES OF THE MEETING HELD ON 15TH SEPTEMBER 2014

The Chairman of the Health Provision Working Group presented the notes of the meeting held on 15th September and also referred to the Working Group meeting on 30th October 2014.

SO/48 Health Provision Working Group – to receive an update from the Chairman and notes of the meeting held on 15th September 2014 (continued)

The Working Group had discussed the CCG's Strategic Service Development Plan (SSDP). The Chairman of the Working Group had written to the media, having obtained the approval of the Scrutiny and Overview Committee for his letter, to highlight the importance of Horsham Hospital and its ideal position to provide space for services such as a preventive care centre for long term medical conditions, for an expanded Minor Injuries Unit, an expanded outpatient department, and the suggestion that a unit undertake cataract surgery and other minor surgery.

The Working Group would consider one of the SSDP's proposals which suggested developing Horsham Hospital as a hospital and health campus by building a new general practice there to replace one or more of the central Horsham practices, and develop a general practice at Broadbridge Heath.

The Working Group would review the provision of the outpatient service to look at the patient pathway from admission to discharge, and also review local care home provision and how it was integrated into care pathways.

Members of the Working Group had questioned the CCG representatives at a meeting with Councillors on 3rd November 2014 to discuss the Five Communities Plan. The CCG had acknowledged the Working Group's wish for a manager or administrator to be employed at Horsham Hospital.

Members of the Committee recognised the important future role that Horsham Hospital could provide.

RESOLVED

That the notes of the Health Provision Working Group meeting held on 15th September 2014 be received.

REASON

All notes of Working Group meetings are to be received by the Committee.

SO/49 **INDUCTION OF NEWLY-ELECTED COUNCILLORS WORKING GROUP – TO RECEIVE AN UPDATE FROM THE CHAIRMAN AND NOTES OF THE MEETING HELD ON 3RD NOVEMBER 2014**

The Chairman of the Induction of newly-elected Councillors Working Group presented the tabled notes of the meeting held on 3rd November 2014.

The Working Group had agreed the scope of its review of the training and information provided to newly-elected Councillors, particularly at the start of their four year term, and to any Councillor elected at mid-term or at other times, and also to consider the continuing training and development needs.

SO/49 Induction of Newly-elected Councillors Working Group – to receive an update from the Chairman and notes of the meeting held on 3rd November 2014 (continued)

The Working Group would next meet on 18th December 2014 and report back to the Committee meeting on 12th January 2015. The Working Group would present its final report to the Committee meeting on 16th March 2015 to allow actions to be implemented in good time for the induction process for new Councillors which would begin in May and June 2015.

RESOLVED

That the notes of the Induction of newly-elected Councillors Working Group meeting held on 3rd November 2014 be received.

REASON

All notes of Working Group meetings are to be received by the Committee.

SO/50 **TRADE WASTE WORKING GROUP – TO RECEIVE AN UPDATE FROM THE CHAIRMAN**

There had been no further meetings of the Trade Waste Working Group.

The Working Group would next meet in February 2015 to consider whether its recommendations had been progressed and implemented.

RESOLVED

To note the update given in respect of the Trade Waste Working Group.

REASON

All Working Group updates are to be received by the Committee.

SO/51 **JOINT SCRUTINY TASK AND FINISH GROUP FOR THE COMMUNITY LEGAL ADVICE SERVICE CONTRACT - UPDATE**

The Committee noted that, in relation to the contract for generalist legal advice to the public, there was no further progress to report at this stage.

The Joint Scrutiny Task and Finish Group would discuss how best to proceed in light of the legal advice about whether a tendering process was required.

SO/52 **TO RECEIVE ANY SUGGESTIONS FOR THE SCRUTINY AND OVERVIEW
WORK PROGRAMME**

There were no suggestions for the Scrutiny & Overview work programme.

SO/53 **ITEMS NOT ON THE AGENDA BUT CONSIDERED URGENT**

There were no urgent items.

The meeting finished at 7.33 p.m. having commenced at 5.30 p.m.

CHAIRMAN