

Overview and Scrutiny Committee
22 NOVEMBER 2021

Present: Councillors: Tony Bevis (Chairman), Brian Donnelly (Vice-Chairman), Matthew Allen, Martin Boffey, Jonathan Chowen, Billy Greening, Tim Lloyd, Bob Platt, Jack Saheid, Jim Sanson and James Wright

Apologies: Councillors: Frances Haigh, Nigel Jupp, Josh Potts and Ian Stannard

SO/34 **MINUTES**

The minutes of the meeting held on 20 September 2021 were approved as a correct record and signed by the Chairman.

SO/35 **DECLARATIONS OF MEMBERS' INTERESTS**

Cllr Bevis declared a non-pecuniary interest in respect of the Community Advice Partnership item on the Forward plan, since he was a volunteer at the CAB.

SO/36 **ANNOUNCEMENTS**

The Chairman gave recognition of the passing of a much-respected officer, which was endorsed by the Committee.

The Chairman made three announcements:

- The Council Zero Carbon Plan item had been deferred to the next meeting.
- The proposed report on the South Downs National Park had been deferred since Councillor Van der Klugt had given her apologies for this meeting.
- A discussion with Southern Water regarding water neutrality had been mooted but agreed that an invitation will be issued, to also include natural England, at a more appropriate time.

SO/37 **REPORT ON THE COUNCIL'S FINANCE AND PERFORMANCE IN 2021/22**

The Director of Corporate Resources presented the report on the Council's finance and performance in 2021/22.

The previously reported forecast operational surplus was reiterated. This was substantially the result of the faster return of leisure income than predicted. There were however some outstanding debts, which were being pursued.

Capital expenditure was lower than ideal, with bids spread over a longer than usual timeframe of 2-3 years.

23 of the Performance Indicators were on or above target, with 5 more close to target and only 2 below target. Work would continue to address the less well performing areas.

Councillors sought further clarification on a number of the yellow rated indicators. Clarification was also sought on indicator R&B03 (LA Error). It was explained that this resulted from historical errors that had not previously been corrected and were no longer open to further redress. This was near the upper Governmental threshold but may exceed it by the end of the year.

Clarification was sought and provided on the Okehurst Business Plan entry in Appendix C.

It was requested that the report received in relation to the consideration of a further railway station (Appendix E) be shared. It was agreed that this would be checked and circulated if approved.

Councillors noted the contents of the report.

SO/38 **CABINET FORWARD PLAN**

The Committee noted the contents of the Forward Plan.

SO/39 **WORK PROGRAMME**

There were no new suggestions for the Work Plan.

SO/40 **UPDATES FROM TASK & FINISH GROUPS**

The Committee received an update on the work of the Sustainable Transport Task & Finish Group, including agreement on the Terms of Reference and Work Programme.

The Committee were advised that the previously agreed work on off-road parking was not being progressed. The Chairman agreed to take this up with the Cabinet and seek funding for consultancy work on the topic.

The Committee were also advised that funding to explore the potential impact of a second runway at Gatwick Airport was expected to be approved, and suggestions for priorities were invited.

SO/41 **URGENT BUSINESS**

There was no urgent business.

The meeting closed at 6.20 pm having commenced at 5.30 pm

CHAIRMAN