

HARBOROUGH DISTRICT COUNCIL
MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE PERFORMANCE SCRUTINY PANEL

held at

The Harborough Innovation Centre
Airfield Business Park, Leicester Road, Market Harborough, LE16 7WB

on

12th April 2023

Commencing at 6.30 p.m.

Present:

Councillor Rickman, Chairman

Councillors (Panel): Critchley, Frenchman, Knowles, Mahal and Mrs Wood

Officers present: K. Aitkin, K. Parsons, C. Bland, J. Young and C. Mason

Officers joining remotely: C. Pattinson

APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE AND NOTIFICATIONS OF SUBSTITUTION

Apologies were received from Cllr Graves

DECLARATIONS OF MEMBERS' INTERESTS

There were no declarations of interest.

MINUTES OF THE SCRUTINY PERFORMANCE PANEL

It was noted that Councillor Knowles and Mahal's attendance was not recorded on the Minutes of the Meeting of the Performance Scrutiny Panel held on the 19th January 2023. This was corrected prior to the meeting and the Chairman informed the panel.

It was **RESOLVED** that the Minutes of the Meeting of the Performance Scrutiny Panel held on the 19 January 2023 be adopted as a true and correct record.

REPORT 1: QUARTERLY FINANCIAL PERFORMANCE QUARTER 3 REPORT

The report was presented by the Head of Financial Services and included the Revenue and Capital monitoring for Quarter 3 to December 2022. It was explained that the actuals for the first 3 Quarters of the year, and the last quarter were forecasted to ensure a full year forecast position for the year which was then compared with the original budget. Particular attention was drawn to the appendix to the report and the Panel was invited to consider the Cabinet's response to the Quarter 3 performance data and determine what, if any, further action should be recommended.

The following questions and responses were as follows:

Question	Response
On page 16, paragraph 3.1, considering the commentary here where it states providing an accurate forecast outturn based on the financial performance at Quarter 3 could still be challenging as things can occur between the end of December and the end of the financial year. Will those savings be made?	That is what we believe they were to be at Quarter 3.
For the benefit of the Panel and the residents, could we have the Capital underspend verbally presented and recorded?	The details are shown in 3.16, Table 2. 300k underspend which relates to the Welland Park toilet refurbishment, which was £129,000. The ICT Channel Shift programme which was £96,000 and LADS energy efficiency scheme £73k
The underspend on the Welland Park Toilet Refurbishment of £129,000 seems an awful lot of underspend not be spent?	When the Capital Programme was set it was based on a best estimate of what it would be. When it went out to market, we received better than expected estimates.

It was **RESOLVED** that the report be **NOTED** and there were no comments to take forward to cabinet.

REPORT 2: PERFORMANCE END QUARTER 3 2022/23

The report was presented by the Business Planning Officer and she asked the Panel to note the two appendices to the report and that the Quarter 3 performance had identified no 'red' or high risk activities within the key activities document. There were a number of 'amber' activities at the end of Quarter 3, which could be seen in Appendix A. Appendix B, the Key Performance Indicators (KPI's) contained one 'red' activity within the Strategic Partnership, KPI dashboard. This report covered the last period

before the end of the year and any amber status activities and KPI's had been highlighted.

The following questions were asked by the panel and the responded to as follows:

Question	Response
<p>General point some of the items don't seem to be specific enough.</p>	<p>SMART objectives - noted and a refresh of the in the corporate plan actions would be taking place post elections.</p>
<p>Planning Enforcement fell below their target; what was being done to ensure that at the very least they meet 80%, if not higher?</p> <p>Was there any indication that the local authority would retain all that money or would it be central government?</p>	<p>Planning review was currently being carried out and the government have a consultation out on raising planning fees. There would be a +20% from August and a further increase later in the year.</p> <p>Indication from the consultation indicated it would be ring fenced for planning. Further information would be provided later on, after the consultation.</p>
<p>The footfall has been down for a while now, why is it taking so long to sort out?</p>	<p>There have been delays in getting equipment into premises and the legal permissions.</p>
<p>Payment of invoices; why they not paid all been paid?</p> <p>Should further notes on KPIs be more nuanced rather than a blunt account?</p>	<p>If there was a delay, it would be for contractual reasons; otherwise they paid as soon as possible.</p> <p>Possibly; however, it is the aim to pay them within 7 days and more detail will be added to the notes in future</p>
<p>Regarding the Drink Spiking Campaign – should there not be further concerns raised on drink spiking and leading the campaign? Have we heard back from the officers on this?</p>	<p>The following article was in the March Residents newsletter:-</p> <p>DrinkSafe Anti-Spiking Campaign Launch</p> <p>Leicestershire Police are launching a new DrinkSafe Anti-Spiking campaign.</p>

	<p>It was also to be noted that Leicestershire Police take violence against women and girls extremely seriously and as such have a framework in place to increase action against dangerous perpetrators, build women's trust and confidence and help make spaces safer for all women.</p> <p>The campaign is set to be launched across the district in support of preventing violence against women and girls. Anti-spiking drink toppers funded by the Harborough District Community Safety Partnership and the Police and Crime Commissioner's office would be distributed to licensed premises across the District, alongside key safety information.</p> <p>This project would further educate people around the offence of drink spiking and could prevent offending. This was hoped to provide reassurance to women around Leicestershire because it added to the positive action being taken to make safer spaces for women.</p> <p>It was noted that this should also be raised at Licensing Committee.</p>
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The Chair presented an update on Rural Scheme EV Chargers. A copy was also circulated to the committee.

Question	Response
How are these cars stored?	They are parked at the village hall and there would be a key safe for storing the keys to a standard agreed with the insurance company.

The Chair thanked the Finance Service Manager for her report, and it was **RESOLVED** that the report be **NOTED**.

REPORT 3: REGULATION OF INVESTIGATORY POWERS ACT (RIPA)

The report was presented by the Interim Head of Legal Services and Deputy Monitoring Officer and provided details of the use of covert surveillance under the Regulation of Investigatory Powers Act 2000 ("RIPA") by Harborough District Council. It was to note that the Harborough District Council has not used this in Quarter 3. **RESOLVED** that the report be **NOTED**.

ANY URGENT BUSINESS

There was not urgent business.

The Meeting ended at 19:12.