

HARBOROUGH DISTRICT COUNCIL

MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE RESOURCE AND PERFORMANCE SCRUTINY PANEL

Held in the Council Chamber, The Symington Building,

Adam and Eve Street, Market Harborough

17 September 2015

Commencing at 6.30p.m.

Present:

Councillor Spendlove-Mason,

Councillors: Bilbie, Callis, Mrs Burrell, Dann (ex officio.), Evans, Graves, Hadkiss, Dr Hill and Modha

Apologies for absence from Cllrs Ackerley, Beesley-Reynolds, Evans and Knowles

Officers: B. Jolly, K. Cowell and B. Murgatroyd

184 ELECTION OF CHAIRMAN FOR THE MEETING

In the absence of the Chairman and Vice- Chairman it was moved by Cllr Nunn, seconded by Cllr Bilbie and

RESOLVED that: Councillor Spendlove-Mason be elected Chairman for this meeting.

185 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE AND NOTIFICATIONS OF SUBSTITUTION

Apologies were received from was received from Cllrs Ackerley, Beesley-Reynolds, and Knowles. Cllr Callis substituted for Cllr Knowles. Cllr Nunn substituted for Cllr Ackerley

186 MINUTES

RESOLVED that: the Minutes of the Meeting of the Resource and Performance Scrutiny Panel held on 16 July 2015 be taken as read and signed by the Chairman as a true record.

187 DECLARATIONS OF MEMBERS' INTERESTS

None reported.

188 OUTTURN 2014-2015

The Panel considered the financial performance of the Council in 2014-2015

The summary position for the Council's Revenue Budget was presented at Appendix A to the report. Subject to audit of the 2014/15 Accounts the Council underspent by £685k against the Revised Budget approved by Council in February 2014. The underspend along with statutory accounting adjustments, is transferred as part of the accounts process to the Council's General Fund Balance which at the end of 2014/15 is estimated to be £3.748m. The report detailed variances based on statutory reporting categorisation and detailed the variances between revised budget estimate and actual expenditure as set out in the draft statement of accounts. However, this does result in reporting of technical adjustments (such as impairment, pension adjustments and equal and opposite

accounting adjustments (e.g. central recharges) that distort the understanding these are identified separately

The Panel commented favourably on the level of detail in the report which it considered appropriate for the type of reporting and requested that this level of detail be maintained for future reports.

The Panel noted the report

189 QUARTER ONE PERFORMANCE 2015-2016

The Panel noted that performance is monitored and reported on to Officers and Members on a quarterly basis, as part of the Council's Performance Management Framework . Quarterly Performance Reports are submitted to both Scrutiny and the Executive on a quarterly basis.

It was reported to the panel that with regard to Key Activity 11.01 (Market Harborough Museum): following a number of workshops and meetings, new partnership arrangements were agreed. This included the establishment of a Harborough Museum Partnership Steering Group with representatives from the existing legal partners (Harborough District Council, Leicestershire County Council and the Market Harborough Historical Society). It was also agreed that work to establish a Harborough Museum Trust would cease at this time and steps would be taken to resolve any outstanding issues around funding held by the interim organisation for the benefit of the Museum and these be transferred to a relevant body, for the specific purpose of supporting and developing Harborough Museum. Therefore the wording of Key Activity 11.01 was changed from: 'Facilitate with partners delivery of a Charitable Museum Trust for Market Harborough'. To 'Work with partners to support the ongoing development and sustainability of the Market Harborough Museum'.

The status of the key activities was explained and it was noted that not all key activity started in Quarter 1. With regard to working days lost to sickness absence the Panel queried the figure presented . It was explained that a major factor in the levels of sickness absence for the first quarter was the number of long term sickness cases ,several of which will be resolved in the next quarters reporting

The Panel noted the report

190 CORPORATE RISK AND OPPORTUNITY REGISTER QUARTER ONE 2015-2016

The Panel considered the Corporate Risk and Opportunity register at the end of Quarter 1 2015-2016 which defined risk /opportunity as issues which may have a significant impact on the delivery of the Council's vision and priorities

The panel questioned the Corporate Risk CR09 in particular the likelihood(CR09 related to poor management and monitoring of major contracts)it was reported to the panel there had been changes at SERCo with likelihood of further changes. The Council had been experiencing difficulty in receiving performance indicator information from the company. The Council would always monitor a business contractor on its performance. The Panel asked if this concern also applied to the waste contract.The Panel were assured that performance figures from FCC were received on time. It was helped that the Council had a direct relationship with FCC . The relationship with SERCO was delivered through the Leisure Trust

All corporate risks were carefully monitored ,though the Council could not control changes which came from central Government. With regard to CR04 and CR05 the impact of these changes would not be known until Quarter 2 or 3 . There has been some modelling of the impact of welfare changes of residents which allows the Council to contact families to help to mitigate the impact of any welfare changes. With regard to universal credit by last week there had be 6 claimants ,all single /non householders . None had contacted the Council with help with budgeting. The impact of significant

changes to national financial situation (CR05) would not be known until December with the provisional financial settlement known on 18/19 December.

Panel members asked about the Harborough Innovation Centre and the length of time businesses could remain in that building . Officers undertook to contact members with the response. The provision of move on space was being considered and panel members asked if move –on space would be limited to a number of miles from the Innovation Centre

The Panel noted the report

191 LEICESTERSHIRE AUTHORITIES SECTION 106 PROTOCOL

The Panel received an update on the joint work undertaken within Leicestershire on establishing a common approach to Section 106 issues.

A Draft Protocol was produced in late 2014 and circulated for comment to various agencies and developers involved in making planning obligations. It was amended and agreed by the Leicester and Leicestershire Strategic Planning Group (Senior Managers and Directors drawn from all authorities) in May 2015 for endorsement within each authority. . It was agreed by authorities that the Protocol would be short, succinct and keep to high level matters. It sets out common expectations in terms of information requirements from consultees, how requests are considered, how viability issues are addressed, and how requests for obligations are processed. It should be emphasised that the consideration of requests continue to be considered on a case by case basis by each local planning authority. The Protocol simply sets the common working practices for each authority to follow.

The Protocol was produced and approved in time to form an Appendix to a Draft Supplementary Planning Document on Developer Contributions and Affordable Housing which was approved for public consultation by Executive and Council in June. This document currently remains open for public responses until 30 September. Following assessment of responses it will be brought back to Executive at its meeting on 30 November and then Council for adoption. In this way the Protocol will be formally endorsed and adopted by this Council.

The Panel noted that there were no mention of bonds in the protocol . it was confirmed that Harborough District Council was the only local authority in the county to request bonds for section 106 monies.

The Panel noted the report.

The Meeting ended at 7.30pm