

COTSWOLD DISTRICT COUNCIL

OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY COMMITTEE

28 MAY 2020

Present:

Councillor Stephen Andrews - Chair

Councillors -

Claire Bloomer  
Gina Blomefield  
Patrick Coleman  
Andrew Maclean

Dilys Neill  
Richard Norris  
Gary Selwyn

Officers -

Head of Paid Service

This meeting was the first virtual Council Committee meeting which had taken place under the Coronavirus Regulations 2020, Part 3 - Modification of meeting and public access requirements. The regulations required Committee meetings to be livestreamed to the public and if technical difficulties occurred during the meeting, action needed to take place to ensure that decisions made were transparent. In this regard, if technical issues occurred, Councillor Gary Selwyn was appointed as Vice Chair, for this meeting only and would be able to stand in for the Chair if technical issues arose.

Apologies:

There were no apologies.

OS.74 SUBSTITUTION ARRANGEMENTS

There were no substitutions.

OS.75 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

(1) Member Declarations

There were no other declarations of interest under the Code of Conduct for Members or Section 106 of the Local Government Finance Act 1992.

(2) Officer Declarations

There were no declarations of interest from Officers.

OS.76 MINUTES – 3 MARCH 2020

**RESOLVED that the Minutes of the meeting held on 3 March 2020 be approved as a correct record;**

**Record of Voting - for 8, against 0, abstention , absent 0.**

OS.77 CHAIR'S ANNOUNCEMENTS

There were no announcements.

OS.78 PUBLIC QUESTIONS

No questions had been received from the Public.

OS.79 MEMBER QUESTIONS

No questions had been received from Members.

OS.80 CALLED-IN DECISIONS

No executive decisions had been the subject of Call-In since the Committee's previous Meeting.

OS.81 MATTERS RELATING TO THE COVID-19 PANDEMIC(a) Local Decisions taken

The Head of Paid Service explained that a range of decisions had been taken under Council Procedure Rule 37. Some decisions taken were required under the new legislation, Coronavirus Act 2020, which would have been similar to a Committee decision. Virtual meetings were now taking place, the decision making process would become, business as usual, although there may be a need to invoke the emergency procedures in the future. A final list of decisions would be provided to Members in due course.

Members' questions were responded to as follows:

- (i) Green waste fee had been set at £35. The service had to be temporarily suspended due to Ubico staff shortages during the pandemic, therefore a decision had been taken to reduce the fee to £30 for 2020/21.
- (ii) Food parcels for shielded people had been issued with standard contents which did not take account of any health or faith issues. The Council, at one point during the emergency was asked for support with this project, although local authorities did not have much input into the project and it was not received well. Members suggested that when the data was available with costs to the Council becoming known, the list be updated with costs and lessons learnt, with an item on the workplan, which could also feed into the Audit Committee. A Covid-19 Budget was in place, showing income, expenditures, incurred lost income, plus potential financial awards.
- (iii) Decisions on Covid-19 Community resilience grants were presented to a meeting which involved the Deputy Leader and Cabinet Member for Finance, Scrutiny Members and Officers. Recommendations were made by the Cabinet Member to the Head of Paid Service. This process was to create expediency to pay grants to charities and other organisations, rather than having a call-in period which would mean that grants were delayed being paid to the organisations concerned.

(b) Arrangements for virtual meetings

Virtual meetings were beginning to take place. There was to be a meeting of Cabinet, Annual Council and Planning and Licensing Committee. Following these meetings a review would take place to ascertain what worked well and what could be improved upon.

**RESOLVED that the reports be noted.**

**Record of Voting - for 8, against 0, abstention 0, absent 0.**

OS.82 DRAFT WORK PLAN 2020/21

The draft work plan was noted. An informal work planning meeting was to take place following Committee.

**RESOLVED that the work plan be noted.**

**Record of Voting – for 8, against 0, abstention 0, absent .**

OS.72 QUARTERLY DIGEST (INCLUDING COUNTY MATTERS)

It was noted that due to the Pandemic, no meetings of the Gloucestershire Economic Growth Scrutiny Committee, Health Overview and Scrutiny Committee and Police and Crime Panel had taken place since the update in the last Quarterly Digest. A meeting of the Gloucestershire Economic Growth Joint Committee was due to take place on 3 June 2020 which would be attended by two Members of the Overview and Scrutiny Committee.

OS.73 OTHER BUSINESS

There was no other business.

The Chair thanked Members and Officers for their work on the Committee during the current civic year. The Annual Council Meeting was due to take place on 3 June 2020 which would decide the membership of the Committee for the year 2020/21.

The Meeting commenced at 4.00pm and closed at 5.00pm.

Chair

(END)