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Overview and Scrutiny Committee
18/October2022



COTSWOLD
DISTRICT COUNCIL

Minutes of a meeting of Overview and Scrutiny Committee held on Tuesday, 18 October 2022.

Councillors present:

Stephen Andrews

Gina Blomefield

Patrick Coleman

Gary Selwyn

Roly Hughes

Nigel Robbins

Nikki Ind

David Cunningham

Officers present:

Rob Weaver – Chief Executive

Angela Claridge – Director of Governance and
Development

Caleb Harris – Democratic Services Officer

Wayne Smith – Democratic Services Officer

Claire Locke – Assistant Director – Property
and Regeneration

Mandy Fathers - Business Manager - Environmental, Welfare & Revenue Service

Observers:

Councillor Joe Harris, Leader of the Council

Councillor Mike Evemy, Deputy Leader and Cabinet Member of Finance

Councillor Tony Dale, Cabinet Member for Economy and Transformation

OS.196 Apologies

Apologies were received from Councillors Clair Bloomer and Richard Norris.

OS.197 Minutes

The Chair stated that the minutes of the meeting held on 4th October 2022 would be considered at the next meeting on 22nd November 2022.

OS.198 Substitute Members

There were no Substitute Members.

OS.199 Declarations of Interest

There were no Declarations of Interest from Members.

There were no Declarations of Interest from Officers.

OS.200 **Chair's Announcements**

There were no announcements from the Chair.

OS.201 **Public Questions**

There were no Public Questions

OS.202 **Member Questions**

There were no Member Questions

OS.203 **Called-in Decisions**

There were no Called-In Decisions.

OS.204 **Performance Task and Finish Group**

The purpose of the report was to provide the Overview and Scrutiny Committee with an update on progress for Phase I of the Performance Management and Reporting Task and Finish Group's Work.

In the absence of the Business Manager for Resources, Data and Growth, Councillor Coleman presented a summary of the work completed by the Group.

The Committee noted that the initial review had been completed including the completion of the project's Terms of Reference.

The Committee noted that one-to-one meetings had taken place with Cabinet Members and the Head of the Business Information and Performance Management and new and amended Performance Indicators had been defined.

The Committee noted that the Performance Indicators were designed to provide accurate, strategic views of the Council's 'real' performance, and not just those that make the Council look good.

The Committee noted that the new PIs enabled the measurement of outcomes of more abstract Key Performance Indicators (KPIs) e.g. the Clean and Green agenda and Diversity and Inclusion.

RESOLVED: The Committee noted the update of progress on Phase I of the Performance Management Task and Finish Group.

OS.205 **Housing services - relationship with Housing Associations and Cotswold District Council's housing support**

The purpose of the (verbal) report was to understand the Relationships Between Housing Associations and Cotswold District Council's Housing Support Service. and compile a list of suitably probing and informative questions that would be put to Housing Association representatives at a future Committee Meeting.

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In the absence of the Business Manager for Housing, the Group Manager for Commissioning summarised the relationships that the Council had with Housing Associations.

The Committee noted that the Council was both reactive and proactive working in partnership with Housing Associations to ensure that residents had suitable housing across the District.

The Committee noted that the Council did not control or instruct Housing Associations directly however it did intercede where residents had housing faults and issues that needed to be resolved.

The Committee noted that the Council was committed to preventing homelessness and ensuring groups with specific issues had access to suitable housing.

The Committee noted that Council owned the Housing Register that enable residents to be considered for both Housing Association and Private Rented accommodation.

The Committee noted that the Council supported Housing Association that improved their current housing stock and, delivered increased numbers of new, affordable, low-carbon social housing (using Section 106 funds).

The Committee noted that the Council had different relationships with the various Housing Associations across the District from large providers (e.g. Bromford Housing Association), through medium sized housing providers, to smaller associations (e.g. Cotswold Housing),

RESOLVED: The Committee noted and commented on the Relationships Between Housing associations and Cotswold District Council's Housing Support Service and requested the following questions and queries are provided to Housing Associations from across the District.

Questions	Housing Association
Could all HA's attend a future Committee meeting/drop in sessions to address Members queries and answer their questions?	All Which ones?
Could all HAs publish lists of local/neighbourhood coach/agents and their responsible areas to enable tenants and the Committee and ensure these are kept up to date?	All
Could all HAs provide details of their Housing Allocation criteria/policy/approach and clarify whether the Council (Homeseeker Plus), or the Housing Association, make the final allocation decision for properties?	All
Could all HAs provide details of their vetting policy/approach for future tenants?	
Could all HAs provide details of their anti-social behaviour policy/approach?	All
Could all HAs provide details of their policy/approach to the allocation of covenanted properties?	All
Could all HAs provide details of the different leases they offer and the fault/repair resolution timescales/targets, that tenants should expect (in and out-of-hours) for: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Loss of power 	All

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Loss of water supply • Loss of waste disposal (blocked toilets, sinks, basins) • Loss of heating (electric/gas/other) • Loss of cooking facilities (cooker, electric/gas) • Loss of security (broken: door, window, lock, fence other) 	
Could all HAs provide details of their refurbishment/renewal policy/approach including timescales	All
Could all HA's provide details of planned future building/development of homes including affordable homes.	All
Could all HAs provide details of their 'empty homes' policy and approach, average re-occupy times, number currently empty etc.	All

OS.206 **Car Parking service update**

The purpose of the report was to provide a verbal update on the Car Parking Service.

The Business Manager for Environmental, Welfare and Revenue summarised the current Car Parking Service and focussed on a number of areas for the Committee to note.

The Committee noted that, following a 2021 proposal to Council agreement was made to make Car Parking cashless across the District.

The Committee noted that the slow verification of card payments had caused queues to form particularly in Bourton On-The-Water, however this had been resolved by the installation of a Wi-Fi hot spot that enabled payment by mobile phone.

The Committee noted that a software upgrade that enabled 'off-line payment' i.e. payment without immediate verification, had reduced ticketing times, reduced queues and increased ticket sales.

The Committee noted that 'off-line payment' was now standard across the District and for the remaining phases of the roll-out that should be completed by January 2023.

The Committee noted the Car Parking strategy had been updated to include live information boards showing drivers parking space availability. This may enable greater use of the (season ticket only) Whiteway Carpark, with the agreement of the Rugby Club.

The Committee noted that vehicle usage had changed due to the pandemic, and with less journeys were being made, car park usage had reduced, and future car parking provision in Cirencester will be linked to the Cirencester Town Centre Master Plan.

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The Committee noted that cashless car parking may cause issues for residents and visitors unable to pay by any other method except cash.

RESOLVED: The Committee noted the update and provided comment on the presentation and requested that the answers to the questions and further information listed below was made available to the Committee.

Question	Service Area
Could the payment system be configured to prevent payments being made for Free periods e.g. Sundays	
Could daily car parking figures be produced to inform increases and decreases in footfall and driver behaviour on particular days	
Could location and ticket duration car parking figures be produced to inform changes in footfall and driver behaviour in different towns and the effect of increases parking charges e.g. in Tetbury	
Could the website be updated to correctly show where cash is still acceptable, and advise drivers to download the App at home using home Wi-Fi to prevent connectivity issues at car-parks.	Communications
Could further consideration be given to those who only have access to cash e.g. books of tickets available in shops,	
Could a comprehensive review of the strategy be undertaken to include the increase in electric vehicles, the location and availability of charging points, increased electric bike use etc and a plan that covers the entire District.	
Could the number and type of car Parking Complaints be reviewed.	

OS.207 **Executive Scrutiny Protocol**

The purpose of this report was to produce a Protocol that captures the manner in which the Executive (Cabinet and CDC Senior Management Team) interact with Overview and Scrutiny Committee.

The Protocol had been previously been considered by the Committee.

RESOLVED: The Overview and Scrutiny Committee endorsed the Executive/Scrutiny Protocol, attached at Annex A, in agreement with Cabinet that had previously endorsed, and recommended it was considered at November Council for inclusion in the Constitution.

Voting Record – For 8, Against 0, Abstentions 0, Absent 2,

OS.208 **Quarterly Digest**

The Chair provided an update from HOSP on the performance of the NHS Foundation Trust (Gloucestershire Royal and Cheltenham General Hospitals) where safety at risks had been raised in the areas of Surgery and Leadership.

OS.209 **Executive Forward Plan/Work Plan**

The Executive Forward Plan/Work Plan was reviewed.

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The Meeting commenced at 16:00 and concluded at 18:00

Chair

(END)