

CENTRAL BEDFORDSHIRE COUNCIL

At a meeting of the **CORPORATE RESOURCES OVERVIEW & SCRUTINY COMMITTEE** held in Council Chamber, Priory House, Monks Walk, Shefford on Tuesday, 21 March 2017.

PRESENT

Cllr P A Duckett (Chairman)
Cllr J Chatterley (Vice-Chairman)

Cllrs J Kane
D McVicar

Cllrs T Swain
T Woodward

Apologies for Absence: Cllrs N B Costin
R W Johnstone

Substitutes: Cllrs Mrs A Barker
C C Gomm
M A G Versallion

Members in Attendance: Cllrs Mrs C F Chapman MBE Vice-Chairman of the Council
Cllr S Dixon (Executive Member) Executive Member for Education and Skills
Mrs T Stock Deputy Executive Member for Health

Officers in Attendance: Mr M Coiffait – Director of Community Services
Mrs P Everitt – Scrutiny Policy Adviser
Mr C Warboys – Director of Resources

CROSC/16/43 Minutes

RESOLVED that the Minutes of the meeting of the Corporate Resources Overview and Scrutiny Committee held on 24 January 2017 be confirmed and signed by the Chairman as a correct record.

CROSC/16/44 Members' Interests

None.

CROSC/16/45 Chairman's Announcements and Communications

The Chairman announced his attendance at an event on Financial Scrutiny at the Centre for Public Scrutiny and advised the Council's current financial scrutiny procedures were considered good practice. The Chairman would be involved in the development of a finance training programme for all Members.

CROSC/16/46 Petitions

None.

CROSC/16/47 Questions, Statements or Deputations

None.

CROSC/16/48 Call-In

None.

CROSC/16/49 Requested Items

None.

CROSC/16/50 Executive Member Update

Executive Member for Education and Skills advised the Committee of new developments that included:-

- Additional funding for the adult social care budget estimated at £1.8m of earmarked reserves, subject to ratification by the Department of Health. Members would be advised how this additional funding would be used.
- LGSS had changed its case management system to improve tracking services.
- All Council tax and NNDR bills had been sent to residents.
- IT Services was migrating staff onto Office 365.
- Iain Berry had been appointed Assistant Director for Assets following a review of the service.

In light of the update a Member queried what impact the IT changes would have on Members' IT equipment. It was agreed the Chief Information Officer would update the Committee at the next meeting.

CROSC/16/51 Farming Strategy Update

The Director of Community Services introduced a presentation that outlined the proposals for a Farming Strategy. The issues and options were far reaching and it would be necessary to consult across the council and service areas as well as the public and tenant farmers.

Members of the Committee supported the direction of travel recommended and proposed that a working group that consisted of Members of the Committee be established to help with the preparation of the Farming Strategy.

RECOMMENDED

- 1. An Overview working group to support the formulation of the farming strategy be established.**
- 2. The Committee support the proposals outlined to develop a Farming Strategy.**

CROSC/16/52. Community Board Model Proposals

The Deputy Executive Member for Stronger Communities updated the Committee on proposals to introduce a new Community Board Model. Consideration of national best practice and the forming of quadrant locality boards to coincide with Health and Planning localities were amongst some of the ideas being considered. Current joint committees had worked well and had recently been reviewed. The improvements included:-

- Improved terms of reference
- Joint branding
- Joint committees report be submitted to Corporate Resources OSC meetings.

Members supported the proposals for a new Community Board model that would give the opportunity for communities to influence decisions made by the Council. However, it appreciated the difficult task ahead and the need to manage expectations.

RECOMMENDED

The Committee supported the initiative and offered its services in the development of the Community Board Models.

CROSC/16/53. Work Programme 2016/17 & Executive Forward Plan

The Committee considered the current work programme and agreed to include the following items:

1. An IT Services update to include the Windows 365 migration in June
2. An update on a new Customer Services system and reporting date (September)
3. Farming Strategy update tbc (June)
4. Ivel Valley Quadrant Accommodation Plan (June)

AGREED the work programme as set out in Appendix A subject to the addition of items 1-4 highlighted above.

CROSC/16/54. Ivel Valley Quadrant Accommodation Plan

Due to the imminence of the purdah period for elections in Biggleswade and Shefford, the Ivel Valley Quadrant Accommodation Plan would be considered in June.

Noted the rescheduled date.

Chairman.....

Date.....

(Note: The meeting commenced at 10.00 a.m. and concluded at 11.56 a.m.)