

CORPORATE PERFORMANCE AND RESOURCES SCRUTINY COMMITTEE

Minutes of a Remote meeting held on 19th May, 2021.

The Committee agenda is available [here](#).

Present: Councillor M.R. Wilson (Chairman); Councillors G.D.D. Carroll, G.A. Cox, R. Crowley, Mrs. P. Drake, V.P. Driscoll, G. John, Dr. I.J. Johnson, Ms. S. Sivagnanam and J.W. Thomas.

Also present: Councillors L. Burnett (Cabinet Member for Education and Regeneration) and N. Moore (Executive Leader and Cabinet Member for Performance and Resources).

45 ANNOUNCEMENT –

Prior to the commencement of the meeting, the Principal Democratic Services referred to a number of housekeeping issues including advising those present that the meeting would be livestreamed as well as recorded for uploading via the internet and archived for future viewing.

46 APPOINTMENT OF VICE-CHAIRMAN –

RESOLVED – T H A T Councillor Mrs P Drake be appointed Vice-Chairman for the Municipal year.

47 MINUTES –

RECOMMENDED – T H A T the minutes of the meeting held 21st April, 2021 be approved as a correct record.

48 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST –

No declarations of interest were received.

49 CONSIDERATION OF SENIOR MANAGEMENT STRUCTURE WITHIN THE COUNCIL (REF) –

Cabinet had, on 12th May, 2021, referred the report to the Scrutiny Committee for its consideration. The reference detailing the resolutions of Cabinet which had not been available prior to the despatch of the agenda had subsequently been circulated prior to the meeting and uploaded to the agenda on the Council's website. The Leader presented the report advising that he had also consulted with Group leaders on the matter. The report set out the reasons why a review was necessary and timely and

No.

having regard to a number of aspects for example, the Council's response to the Covid – 19 pandemic, the Local Government and Elections(Wales) Act 2021. In response to a query as to the consultants to be invited to undertake the review the Leader advised that it was the intention to invite SOLACE (Society of Local Authority Chief Executives) to assist as they had experience in undertaking similar reviews in England. Following a further query as to the potential cost for the work the Leader's view was approximately 10 days work and approximately costing in the region of £7,500 to £10,000. The Chairman also enquired as to the timescale for completion with the Leader advising that it was his intention to finalise the review with a final report to Full Council for approval by December 21. This would allow time for a structure to bed in before the Local Government elections in May 2022. Cllr Dr Johnson and Cllr G Carroll both took the opportunity to thank the Leader for hosting a Group Leaders briefing on the matter and advised that they too considered that it was highly appropriate and timely for a Management Structure review to take place.

In response to the Chairman's queries regarding the methodology for the review, benchmarking and the personnel that would likely be interviewed during the review both the Leader and Head of Human Resources and Organisational Development commented that it was expected that a wide range of stakeholders e.g. Senior Leadership Team, Cabinet Members and Group leaders would be interviewed with benchmarking being part of the process. The Head of Human Resources also advised that the Trade Unions had already been consulted on the contents of the report and would be kept fully informed. The Leader also assured the Committee that any proposals and / or findings of the review would be reported to the Scrutiny Committee prior to consideration by Full Council.

The Scrutiny Committee, having considered the report, the resolutions of Cabinet and having regard to the discussions at the meeting, subsequently

RECOMMENDED – T H A T the report be noted.

Reason for recommendation

Having regard to the contents of the report and the discussions at the meeting.

NB. The Chairman moved the item for consideration to the end of the agenda in order that Members of the Senior Management Team who were in attendance could leave the meeting with the exception of the Head of Human Resources and Organisational Development who remained to provide advice on any matters raised but left the meeting prior to any decision being taken.

50 4TH QUARTER SCRUTINY RECOMMENDATIONS TRACKING 2020/21 AND PROPOSED ANNUAL FORWARD WORK PROGRAMME SCHEDULE 2021/22 (MD) –

The Principal Democratic and Scrutiny Services Officer presented the report, the purpose of which was to advise on progress on the Scrutiny Committee's recommendations in respect of the 4th Quarter January to March 2021 (Appendix A to the report), 3rd Quarter October to December 2020 (Appendix B to the report), to

No.

note the 4th Quarter Forward Work Programme 2020/21 (Appendix C to the report) and for the Committee to consider and make any amendments to its proposed Annual Forward Work Programme schedule for 2021/22 attached at Appendix E to the report. Having regard to the work programme Cllr Dr I Johnson enquired as to when an update report in respect of Welfare Reform, to include reference to Universal Credit and free school meals eligibility following his question at Full Council recently, was to be presented. The Section 151 officer and Head of Finance advised that it was her intention with the permission of the Chairman to report to the June meeting.

Having considered the report and the appendices it was

RECOMMENDED –

- (1) T H A T the status of the actions listed in Appendices A and B to the report be agreed.
- (2) T H A T the Cabinet Annual Forward Work Programme for 2021/22 attached at Appendix D to the report, in the context of the Corporate Performance and Resources Scrutiny Committee Annual Forward Work Programme 2021/22 content, be noted.
- (3) T H A T the 4th Quarter Forward Work Programme attached at Appendix C to the report be noted.
- (4) T H A T the Committee's proposed Annual Forward Work Programme schedule attached at Appendix E to the report be approved, subject to the addition of the Welfare update report being presented to the June meeting, and uploaded to the Council's website.

Reasons for recommendations

- (1) To maintain effective tracking of the Committee's recommendations.
- (2&3) Having considered the contents of the report.
- (4) For information having considered the contents of the report, the appendix and discussions at the meeting.