

## COMMUNITIES OVERVIEW & SCRUTINY PANEL

MONDAY, 17 JANUARY 2022

PRESENT: Councillors John Bowden (Chairman), Greg Jones (Vice-Chairman), Gurpreet Bhangra, Helen Price and Catherine Del Campo

Also in attendance: Councillor Clive Baskerville, Councillor Samantha Rayner, Councillor Donna Stimson, Councillor David Hilton, Councillor David Cannon, Ian Brazier-Dubber, Councillor John Baldwin and Councillor Gurch Singh

Officers: Shilpa Manek, David Scott, Andrew Durrant, Laurence Ellis and Christopher Wheeler

### WELCOME FROM THE CHAIRMAN

The Chairman welcomed all to the meeting and read out the online meeting information.

The Panel introduced themselves, as did Officers present.

### APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies for absence were received from Parish Councillor Pat McDonald.

### DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

No declarations of interest were received.

### MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETINGS

**RESOLVED UNANIMOUSLY: that the minutes of the meetings held on 7 October 2021, 9 November 2021 and 18 November 2021 as a true and accurate record.**

Councillor Del Campo would email the Clerk if she had any changes on 7 October 2021.

Subject to no changes from Councillor Del Campo, these were proposed by Councillor Bhangra and seconded by Councillor Jones.

Councillor Price asked to go through all the Matters Arising, as follows:

- Page 17, 3<sup>rd</sup> paragraph, It had been suggested that the resident request be relooked at in three months. **ACTION: this would be placed on the work programme for April 2022.**
- Page 19, to place the Community Safety Partnership on the work programme. **ACTION: this was on the work programme.**
- Page 19, to place food banks on the work programme. **ACTION: Look into working with Councillor Price on a scoping document.**
- Page 23, a brochure for Tivoli was to be distributed to Parish Councils and Town Forum Members. **ACTION: Had this been completed, Clerk to follow up on this.**

- Page 25, the Panel agreed in the summary of the debate that communications needed to be improved and Councillor Price felt they had not improved since the meeting. **ACTION: Inform Alysse Strachan and report back.**
- Page 26, to place the air quality item suggested by Infrastructure O & S panel on the work programme. **ACTION: this was on the work programme.**

## Q2 PERFORMANCE MANAGEMENT REPORT

Andrew Durrant, Executive Director of Place Services, gave a short overview and some detail around the Q2 performance and data report on page 27 in the agenda pack. Andrew Durrant reminded Members that the new Corporate Plan was adopted on 23<sup>rd</sup> November 2021 which set out the Council's new strategic priorities for the next five years, from 2021 to 2026. The report covered the 2021/22 Q2 data and performance and progress in relation to the council's interim strategy. The report also acknowledged the new performance reporting arrangements that were agreed by Cabinet on 16<sup>th</sup> December 2021, that would take effect from 1 April 2022. Members had been given a presentation on 4 January 2022 that explained the new performance arrangements in detail, by the Monitoring Officer.

There were six out of seven measures either meeting or exceeding the targets and the last one was just short of meeting the target but within meeting the set tolerances. In terms of the recovery strategy, there had been a series of campaigns launched to provide reassurance to returning visitors. The Q2 period saw the return of some of the larger events that the borough was used to hosting such as the Royal Horse Show and Royal Ascot. Andrew Durrant also mentioned the footfall across the main towns continued to be encouraging. Some ongoing work for the environment and climate strategy, the council had been able to secure a further £165,000 of grants funding from the low carbon skills fund and this would enable heat decarbonization assessments and development plans across the majority of the council's-built estates including schools, libraries, the Town hall and the Guildhall. The formation of a RBWM climate partnership had been approved to provide more visible leadership for communication, engagement and delivery of the borough-wide environment and climate strategy. The next phase of embedding community response was launched in Maidenhead as part of the transformation strategy and the Maidenhead project had started to develop partnerships to address some of the health inequalities affecting disadvantaged communities. Quarter two also saw the launch of the engagement HQ platform for community engagement and empowerment. Also, the engagement with community and cultural groups had been established with a series of health and well being workshops. The Tivoli performance was commented on and Andrew Durrant would follow up on the outstanding actions.

Councillor Del Campo commented that all the figures looked good except the Tivoli performance. The headline performance figure for recycling, especially over Christmas, did not reflect the difficulties that residents had, with three-week bin collections and assisted collections. The Executive Director commented that there had been a low level of issues in relation to waste collection. The change had gone very well but there had been some things that could have been done better. It was suggested that a detailed report on the transfer be presented to the Panel at a future meeting to understand what was done, how it was done and see if it could be done better next time.

**ACTION: Report to a future Panel meeting after a few months of the changes**

Councillor Del Campo asked if the assisted collections could be looked into and fixed as soon as possible as these were for vulnerable residents.

The Chairman commented that SERCO had done very well considering it was a four-day bank holiday after a long time.

Councillor Del Campo asked about what work had been done with businesses in the borough to reduce the amount of plastic and non-recyclable waste that was generated. Councillor Stimson commented that soft plastics could be taken back to some supermarkets. A list was in the process of being developed by the team of 'what could be taken where' for residents.

Councillor Del Campo asked if the new performance system would give the Panel, a real-time snapshot of what was going on and Andrew Durrant confirmed that it would give real-time information to extract for the here and now rather than being a historical view back. The performance management team were currently looking at the best way to bring these reports to the Overview and Scrutiny Panels. Councillor Rayner confirmed what Andrew Durrant had said and commented that it was more useful to deal with the matters in a more timely manner.

Councillor Price asked about the engagement of the biodiversity action plan with key stakeholders and asked why Members had not been considered to be key stakeholders. Councillor Price had tried to get a briefing, but this had still not taken place. Councillor Price asked why councillors were being excluded. Councillor Stimson gave an update that the borough was at the stage where they had been working with Wild Maidenhead, Wild Cookham and Wild Eton Wick. The project was being half run by experts and the other half by expert officers. The action plan was now with the Berkshire, Buckinghamshire and Oxford Wildlife Group & Trust.

**ACTION: Councillor Stimson to give further update to Councillor Price after meeting with Andrew Durrant.**

Councillor Price asked about the recovery strategy and that she had suggested that the implications of long covid be covered on the borough's population and residents since there were currently two percent of residents that we knew very little about and had not been mentioned in the strategy. Councillor Price still felt that these should be included.

Councillor Price referred to the report on page 41 and the reference to the quarterly Cabinet Transformation Sub Committee which had not met on a regular basis. It also mentioned that Dedworth library would establish a partnership for librarians to extend into Windsor but this had come to a standstill because of staffing issues and trying to find a head librarian in Dedworth so this had still not progressed from six months ago. Councillor Price continued that page 41 referred to the BAME community but there was no reference to Windsor or the Windsor Muslim Association who always got left out of everything. Councillor Price commented that being a learning organisation, there never seemed to be discussion on added value or lessons learnt from failures or from things that had not worked and how things could be improved for the next time.

## DRAFT ANNUAL SCRUTINY REPORT

The Clerk asked the Panel for comments on the draft annual scrutiny report. This was the first draft, and all comments would be added and then a final report would be agreed at the next meeting in April, before it went to cabinet in June.

Councillor Price commented that there was a requirement that the report be produced but no use was made of it. In the last two year's report, proposals had been made to increase improvement to the working methods, but these were not followed and the report was never referred to throughout the year.

Councillor Del Campo commented that the Panels felt more like overview meetings where not much scrutiny was done. There were many meetings that covered many items over the last year and going forward it would be better to have fewer meeting looking at less items but in more detail.

The Clerk commented that we were doing better and that District Enforcement, Serco and Tivoli were very productive and we did better scrutiny for these items.

**ACTION: Any comments for the draft Annual Scrutiny Report to be sent to the clerk in the next ten days.**

## WORK PROGRAMME

The Panel went through the work programme and that the next meeting, so far, consisted of Q3 Interim Performance Management Report and the resident item about parking on footpaths and verges. Also items still not scheduled included Community Safety Partnership and the Waste Management Strategy. There was also Serco update, Boulters Lock progress, Food Banks and Air Quality. The Clerk reminded all that a scoping document would be required if the item was to be put on the agenda with reasons why the item was down for scrutiny. Councillor Del Campo asked about Norden Farm and The Old Court. Councillor Del Campo had asked for the items to place before the budget discussion at Full Council which had not been possible. Andrew Durrant commented that conversations were taking place between Norden Farm and Officers. Andrew Durrant and the Clerk would check when the Norden Farm item would be available to be discussed at a public panel.

### **ACTION: Report back on Norden Farm**

Councillor Price commented that the Waste contract item was on the cabinet forward plan, many changes had taken place, but the Panel had not been kept informed. Councillor Price suggested it be put on the work programme. The Clerk suggested speaking with Alysse Strachan first and discussing if the item needed to go on the work programme.

Councillor Price reminded the panel that the Sports strategy and leisure centres had been suggested previously for the work programme. Andrew Durrant commented that this was a good idea for a future meeting.

### **ACTION: Clerk to add to work programme under items not yet scheduled**

The Clerk then referred to the first of the two scoping documents on Climate Change and Sustainability Strategy that Councillor Del Campo had prepared. The Clerk read out a statement from the Officers. It read:

We are currently drafting our End of Year Report which details progress against targets set out in the Environment and Climate Strategy. This was a commitment made in the strategy document itself. It details progress against the headline carbon target as well as against the actions detailed in the delivery plan. This will be published early in the Spring and may well cover much of what the Panel is looking for.

Many of the key headline targets rely on government being published by national government. This includes Borough carbon emissions and renewable energy generation in the Borough. These are only published once a year.

As agreed by Cabinet, we are currently going through the process of setting up an independent climate partnership that will support deliver of the Environment and Climate Strategy. This is due to be in place from Spring 2022.

In terms of current scrutiny of the work we undertake, we have bi-weekly Lead Member Briefings and month shadow lead member briefings.

Councillor Stimson added that a lot of work had been done and it would be better to leave to the summer.

Councillor Del Campo was very pleased that the borough were already working towards the borough's targets. Councillor Del Campo wanted to add more to the scoping document with respect to the air particulate monitoring that had been agreed at Full Council, Clause 2, to review the borough's air quality improvement action plan in light of the updated food guidelines.

**ACTION: Ask James Thorpe for another update for April meeting and add to Agenda when mote timely. Keep on work programme.**

The second scoping document was on the Community Facilities Review. Ian Brazier-Dubber, Property Manager for the RBWM Property Company, informed the Panel that the report had been produced by his predecessor, Barbara Richardson. The report was to group and develop a set of community facilities in the Holmanleaze area in Maidenhead and provide a new set of community facilities. The main idea was to generate some income from the development of the Ivy Leaf Club, where a multi-use community facility could be built along with affordable housing. Further work was required to see if the improvements to the community facilities accommodated those uses appropriately and also be able to find a source of funding for them.

Councillor Price made some comments on the scoping documents. These included including the neighbours of the site such as the mosque and the park users and broaden out the people who would have views on the proposals. The local community were unaware of the proposals for the project. Councillor Price felt that a lot more work was required. Councillor Price also commented that there was a corporate risk if the project did not go ahead as there would be a loss of affordable housing. The review timescale was 31 October which had been passed as it was only being discussed now. It had disappeared from the Cabinet forward plan so Councillor Price asked about the timeframe. The Clerk suggested adding all the comments to the scoping document and then it be sent to the Panel for comments again and then have on the April meeting agenda for another discussion.

Councillor Del Campo suggested that views from all around the sites be collated and the Disability and Inclusion Forum may have some views. The Clerk commented that the Property Manager had presented at the last Disability and Inclusion Forum and had been kept informed. And the Licensing Panel be kept informed as it was moving licenced premises out into residential areas from the town centre. Councillor Del Campo also suggested Community and Religious groups. The scoping document did not set out the success criteria and the resources. Councillor Del Campo suggested a site visit.

The meeting, which began at 7.00 pm, finished at 8.35 pm

CHAIRMAN.....

DATE.....