

Cabinet 24/11/16 - Comments from Overview & Scrutiny

Part I

Children's Services

Improving Choice in Education

The Children's Services O&S Panel endorsed the recommendations in the Cabinet report. The Panel recommended that the Sutton Trust Report on the effects of selective education should be fully examined and where appropriate reflected in the LEA's consultation response. It was felt that selection should be based more on aptitude rather than fully on ability and that in future reports there should be less emphasis on the phrase 'getting in'.

Cllr Jones and Mrs Tanya White (Secondary Headteacher Representative) did not support the recommendations within the Cabinet report. Cllr D Evans did not vote on the matter as he had declared an interest.

Cllr Jones did not object to the exploration of selective education but she felt that the report lacked the balanced view of the impact this could have on existing schools and did not provide the assurances required to endorse the recommendations. There was insufficient information to scrutinise if selective education should be endorsed.

Financial Update

The Children's Services O&S Panel fully endorsed recommendation 1 in the Cabinet report, they did not vote on recommendation 2 as it was not in this Panel's remit.

Corporate Services

Financial Update

The Corporate Services O&S Panel considered the Cabinet report and fully endorsed the recommendations.

The Chairman sought clarification from the Head of Finance regarding financial risks and was informed that there were no unknown risks and that current concerns were under control.

Council Performance Management Framework Quarter 2 2016/17

The Corporate Services O&S Panel considered the Cabinet report and fully endorsed the recommendations. The Panel requested an additional

recommendation that when an objective had been off target (reported red) for two consecutive quarters the Lead Member / Principle Member should attend the Corporate Services O&S Panel and other appropriate scrutiny panels covered by the objective to present the service improvement plan, for example the Chairman requested that the Lead Member for Children's Services attend a future meeting of the Corporate Services O&S Panel and the Children's Services O&S Panel to explain concerns about a number of targets not being met.

The Chairman reported that

It was noted that at Cabinet the Leader / reporting Member would be adding to recommendation 2 that the service improvement plans for objectives reporting off target would be added to the RBWM website after Cabinet. The leader mentioned that it was important that lead Members took responsibility for their strategic objectives and supported that they should report to scrutiny when objectives were not met.

The Chairman thanked Councillor Derek Wilson, Lead Member for Planning, for attending the meeting and explaining why performance indicators for the planning team were not being met.

Delivering Differently in Operations and Customer Services – Future Provision of Library and Customer Services

The Corporate Services O&S Panel considered the Cabinet report and fully endorsed the recommendations. During deliberation on this item it was noted that customer face to face contact was still an option for our residents. The Chairman wished the library staff to note his thanks for adapting their role that would result in more services being accessible at our libraries.

Change to Council Tax Empty and Unfurnished Exemption

The Corporate Services O&S Panel considered the Cabinet report and fully endorsed the recommendations. The Chairman mentioned that he was pleased to see that we were changing our exemption which brought us in line with our neighbouring authorities.

Culture & Community Services

Council Performance Management Framework Quarter 2 2016/17

A very useful document. The numbers and colour very helpful. There is quick focus on concerns and the commentary was very helpful. This allows communication to be much more effective for the residents. The infographics very useful. Endorsed.

Delivering Differently in Operations and Customer Services – Future Provision of Library and Customer Services

The Chairman endorsed all recommendations; this was seconded by Cllr Sharpe. Unanimously agreed by all Members.

Planning & Housing

Draft Borough Local Plan Consultation

Councillor Hilton proposed (seconded by Councillor David Evans) that the Planning & Housing Overview & Scrutiny Panel supported the Borough Local Plan but remained particularly concerned regarding the provision of infrastructure that would be required to make this level of development sustainable. The Planning & Housing Overview & Scrutiny Panel looked to Cabinet to bring forward a paper to accompany the Infrastructure Plan (including services) to describe how the infrastructure would be funded and delivered.

The Planning & Housing Overview & Scrutiny Panel agreed (Councillors Malcolm Alexander, Councillor Beer, Gerry Clark, David Evans and David Hilton voted for and Leo Walters voted against), subject to a paper accompanying the Infrastructure Plan (including services) to describe how the infrastructure would be funded and delivered, to recommend to Cabinet that they:

- I. Approve the plan period from 2013 to 2033 to require a total of 14,240 dwellings and adjust the draft Borough Local Plan to reflect this change as necessary;**
- II. Approve the Draft Borough Local Plan and associated Sustainability Appraisal (including SA/SEA/HRA) for public consultation under Regulation 18 of the Town and Country Planning (Local Planning) (England) Regulations 2012 for a six-week period from 2 December 2016 to 13 January 2017; and**
- III. Delegate authority to the Strategic Director of Corporate and Community Services in consultation with the Lead Member for Planning to make any final editorial and formatting amendments to the Draft Borough Local Plan and accompanying documents without altering the meaning of the Plan before consultation.**

The Planning & Housing Overview & Scrutiny Panel commented that they would like to see:

- More context added to para 1.5 regarding Neighbourhood Plans.
- A timeframe be added to Non-residential 5 (a) on page 52 of the BLP: Consultation Version (December 2016).
- The previous wording with regard to 'in-fillings' used (SP6 point 3(a)).

- Neighbourhood Plans help underpin SP7 to include settlements in countryside's.
- Para 11.4.10 to read 'will only be supported...'
- Typos corrected in para 8.2.5 and 8.2.11 in the BLP: Consultation Version (December 2016) and also 1.4.9 in Appendix C.
- Demonstrated that the necessary infrastructure would be put in place and where the funding would come from. It was noted that it was felt the infrastructure needed to be in place in front of development rather than after it.

The Chairman expressed his concerns regarding the proportion of the Green Belt sites included in the report which equated to 37% of the housing requirement as he felt this to be too high. It was noted that the Chairman felt the 84% of Objectively Assessed Need identified in the previous consultation was a reasonable compromise regarding building on the Green Belt as opposed to the 100% identified in this report. The Chairman reminded Members that protecting the Green Belt was one of the Councils Manifesto Commitments.

Affordable Housing Planning Guidance Document

The Planning & Housing Overview & Scrutiny Panel agreed (Councillors Malcolm Alexander, Gerry Clark, David Evans, David Hilton and Leo Walters voted for and Councillor Beer voted against) to recommend to Cabinet that they approve the Affordable Housing Planning Guidance Document.

Councillor Beer raised concerns that para 2.6 first bullet (*In addition to the planning process, as guided by this proposed Planning Guidance document, the Council's other affordable housing delivery mechanisms include:*

- *Progressing the Council's own land holdings for the delivery of affordable housing with developers through Joint Ventures and RBWM Property Company)* in his view should be done with the housing associations who have specialist skills in providing affordable housing rather than developers who would be 'doing it for a profit'.

The Planning & Housing Overview & Scrutiny Panel commented that they felt the scheme identified a range of possibilities to build dwellings that would be specifically designed for affordable housing in the Borough whilst at the same time to tailoring ownership using social land orders to manage them but to take a revenue stream from that asset that could be used to support Council resources.

Highways and Transport

A Review of Access Arrangements at Stafferton Way Civic Amenity Site

Members endorsed the recommendations with the additional recommendation making it clear that trade waste is continued to be handled and charged separately from this scheme.

Children's Takeover Day Special O&S Panel

Improving Choice in Education

The Special O&S Panel endorsed the recommendations as listed in the report, with the addition of a proposed amendment to recommendation i:

That Cabinet:

- i. Endorse the development of selective or partially selective education within the education provision of the Royal Borough to further improve the choice of education available to pupils and the families.
This council will support any proposal that considers full or partial selective education only where the proposal includes a detailed commitment to raise the academic achievement of young people eligible for pupil premium

Adult Services

Financial Update

The Adult Services and Health O&S Panel unanimously endorsed the recommendations in the Cabinet report.