

STRATEGIC (OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY) COMMITTEE

22 OCTOBER 2019

PRESENT:

Councillors A Little (Chairman), Norman (Vice-Chair), Ball, Banevicius, Checkland, Grange and Matthews.

(In accordance with Council Procedure Rule No.17 Councillor Pullen attended the meeting).

15 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies were received from Councillors Greatorex, Spruce, Tapper, Warfield, White and S. Wilcox

16 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

There were no declarations of interests.

17 MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING

The minutes of the previous meeting were agreed as a correct record.

18 NEW STRATEGIC PLAN PROCESS & TIMELINE

The Committee received a report on the draft Strategic Plan 2020-2024 which had been developed by a cross party Member Task Group and supported by an Officer working group.

The Chairman gave a background to the development of the draft plan and passed to Councillor Norman and Grange to give an update as to what was discussed at the task group meetings. It was reported that it was felt that the vision for the plan was vital to get correct and examples of other authorities were passed round for the Committee to see. It was reported that the task group, when looking at the current plan, felt that it was too long and should have been more visionary in nature and not focused on delivery. They also felt the length should have been no more than one page.

It was agreed that any plan should not include specific projects as this wedges the plan to specific tasks which should be dealt with in other documents like delivery plans. It was agreed that the Strategic Plan should be more about the desire of where the Council want to be not how to get there.

The Chairman asked the Committee whether the task group approach had been the best one and it was agreed that it had been. There was disappointment that only 12 Members had attended the workshop sessions which was open to all the Council to give their views and thanks were given to those who did attend.

The Committee then received a presentation on the draft Strategic Plan design and themes. The Golden Tread of the Strategic Plan was reported and how it connected to the Delivery Plan, Corporate Indicators to day to day tasks of Service Plans and PDRs. It was noted that the Delivery Plan may not differ however some projects may change. Although it was requested for the Council to concentrate with the higher level documents, it was recognised that there may be need for scrutiny of the "below the line" operational tasks.

When asked, the Committee agreed that there was no requirement for actual photos in the Strategic Plan as it was an unnecessary cost which can date the plan quickly. It was requested that other logos be sought if possible.

The consultation timeline was presented to the Committee and it was agreed that the timings were adequate. It was requested that all opportunities to engage were considered and it was suggested that Six Form colleges be included as the plan would affect that age group. It was also suggested to consider other venues for open drop in events such as Parish halls. It was also requested that marketing of the consultation be considered carefully to attract as many people as possible as well as a clear definition as to what it is about to ensure it does not become another route for individual concerns. It was felt that Councillors could aid in this when meeting their electorate.

It was reported that there had been changes to data sets from partners due to GDPR and email preferences however there was a large amount of names for resident focus groups and there would be a larger distribution of LDC News around the district which would include the consultation.

The Committee amended the consultation timeline to ensure the review of the consultation results was reported to the full Committee and not the task group.

RESOLVED: a) That the draft Strategic Plan 2020- 2024 for adoption by Cabinet to begin formal consultation be endorsed;

b) That the preferred design of a plan on a page with no photos be recommended to Cabinet; and

c) That the consultation approach and amended timeline be recommended to Cabinet

19 EXCLUSION OF PRESS AND PUBLIC

RESOLVED: That, as publicity would be prejudicial to public interest by reason of the confidential nature of the business to be transacted the public and press be excluded from the meeting for the following item of business which would involve the likely disclosure of exempt information as defined in **Paragraph 3 of Part 1 of Schedule 12A** of the Local Government Act 1972 as amended.

20 CONFIDENTIAL MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING

RESOLVED: The confidential minutes of the previous meeting were agreed and signed as a correct record.

(The Meeting closed at 7.00 pm)

CHAIRMAN