

Minutes of the Resources Scrutiny Committee held at the Civic Centre, Riverside, Stafford on Tuesday 15 February 2022

Chairman - Councillor R P Cooke

Present (for all or part of the meeting):-

Councillors:

A R G Brown R A James
A P Edgeller R Kenney
A T A Godfrey J A Nixon
A S Harp G P K Pardesi

Cabinet Member - Councillor R M Smith - Resources Portfolio Cabinet Member - Councillor C V Trowbridge - Leisure Portfolio

Also in attendance:- - Councillor J Hood

Officers in attendance:-

Mr I Curran - Head of Law and Administration

Mr P Kendrick - Head of Technology

Mrs T Redpath - Corporate Business and Partnerships

Manager

Mrs E Fullagar - Chief Accountant

Mr P Beckley - Building Control Manager

Mr R Wolfe - Revenues and Benefits Manager

Mr L Booth - Interim Neighbourhood Services Group

Manager

Mr A Bailey - Scrutiny Officer

RSC28 Minutes

The Minutes of the last meeting held on 18 January 2022, as published on the Council's website, were submitted and signed.

RSC29 Apologies

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors M G Dodson, P Roycroft (Substitute A P Edgeller), J K Price (Environment Portfolio) and J M Pert (Community and Health Portfolio).

RSC30 Quarter 3 Performance Reporting

The Committee considered the performance and financial management details for those areas within the remit of the Committee for the quarter 3 period up to 31 December 2021.

The Committee discussed the following aspects of the report with the Cabinet Member (Resources Portfolio), the Head of Law and Administration, the Head of Technology, the Chief Accountant, the Corporate Business and Partnerships Manager, the Building Control Manager, :-

- LI18 Building Control customers satisfied or very satisfied with the service
- 3.1.2 Formulate a delivery plan with realistic targets for energy, water, travel and transport, monitor progress and report to Scrutiny on a quarterly basis and to Council annually
- 3.2.1 Encourage elected Members to work with their communities to raise awareness and identify opportunities for sustainable low carbon initiatives and promote community action on reducing emissions
- 3.2.2 Work with Government and elected bodies to determine best practice and use this to raise awareness in our communities, businesses and contractors
- 4.2.1 Consider the impact of change and future ways of working on the Council workforce, members and customers, including accommodation, transformation; organisational recovery group and transformational
- 4.2.2 Review the Customer Access/Digital Strategy to inform future procurement of a new digital services platform
- Staff vacancies (£130,000)
- Sharing of Chief Executive post £52,000
- Covid provisions (£503.000)
- Law and Administration additional Saltings income (£23,000)

During the course of the discussion, a motion was moved by Councillor A T A Godfrey and seconded by Councillor R A James that "Cabinet be requested to reconsider the environment of the Civic Centre Reception area in order to become more customer friendly".

On being out to the vote, the motion was declared to be carried.

RESOLVED:- that in exercise of the powers delegated to the Committee:-

- (a) Cabinet be requested to reconsider the environment of the Civic Centre Reception area in order to become more customer friendly;
- (b) the performance and financial management data relating to areas of activity within this Committee's remit be noted.

RSC31 Review of the Constitution

A meeting of the Review of the Constitution Task and Finish Review Working Group had been held immediately prior to this Committee, which had considered a number of recommended amendments to the Constitution.

The Committee subsequently confirmed that those amendments to the Constitution as recommended by the Task and Finish Review Working Group, be presented to Council at its next meeting due to be held on 19 April 2022.

RESOLVED:- that in exercise of the powers delegated to the Committee, the recommendations of the Review of the Constitution Task and Finish Review Working Group, be presented to Council at its next meeting due to be held on 19 April 2022.

RSC32 Work Programme - Resources Scrutiny Committee

Considered the report of the Head of Law and Administration, which presented the Resources Scrutiny Committee's Work Programme for the forthcoming Municipal Year.

The Committee discussed the merits of a Task and Finish Review into Section 106 Agreement monies.

During the discussion, a motion was moved by Councillor A T A Godfrey, seconded by Councillor J A Nixon that a Section 106 Agreement Task and Finish Review be included in the Committee's Work Programme.

On being out to the vote and following the Chairman's casting vote, the motion was declared to be carried.

RESOLVED:- that in exercise of the powers delegated to the Committee:-

- (a) a Section 106 Agreement Task and Finish Review be included in the Committee's Work Programme;
- (b) the Work Programme be approved, subject to the amendments made at the meeting.

CHAIR