

Minutes of the Resources Scrutiny Committee held at the Civic Centre, Riverside, Stafford on Thursday 11 November 2021

Chair - Councillor R P Cooke

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

		R Kenney J A Nixon G P K Pardesi P Roycroft R M Smith - Resources Portfolio J K Price – Environment Portfolio
Also in Attendance:-	-	Councillors E G R Jones and W J Kemp
Mr G Smith Mr S Donohue	-	Business Manager (Stafford), Veolia General Manager (North and Midlands) Veolia
Officers in attendance:-		
Mr I Curran Mr R Simpson Dr T Redpath Mrs W Jennings Mr P Beckley Mr P Gammon Mr L Booth Mr R Wolfe Mrs B Martin Mr A Bailey		Head of Law and Administration Head of Operations Corporate Business and Partnerships Manager Group Human Resources and Payroll Manager Building Control Manager Deputy Head of Operations Corporate Contracts Manager Revenues and Benefits Manager Assistant Contracts Manager Scrutiny Officer

RSC15 Minutes

The Minutes of the last meeting held on 17 August 2021, as published on the Council's website, were submitted and signed.

RSC16 Apologies

An Apology for absence was received from Councillor M G Dodson.

RSC17 Scrutiny of the Waste Contract

The Committee considered the report of the Head of Operations (**V2** 02/11/21) that provided the Committee with the with the Veolia Annual Report and Service Improvement Plan to scrutinise. The Annual Report and Service Improvement Plan had been received by the Council and covered the period from April 2020 to March 2021 in respect of the Recycling and Waste Collection Services and Processing of Dry Recycling contract that Veolia manage on behalf of the Council. The Annual Report and Service Improvement Plan had been written and created by Veolia.

Mr G Smith and Mr S Donohue representing Veolia, attended the meeting and presented the Annual Report to the Committee.

During the presentation, reference was made to the following:-

- Overview
- Partnership Working
- Collected Weights
- Depot Developments
- Annual Service Improvement Plans 2020/21 and 2021/22

Following the presentation, the Committee clarified the following aspects of the report with the representatives from Veolia, the Cabinet Member (Environment Portfolio) and the Corporate Contracts Manager:-

- The local impact of the Government's forthcoming new waste and resources strategy
- Food waste collections
- Measures taken to reduce the carbon footprint of the organisation
- The effects of the national shortage of HGV drivers on the service
- The effects of fuel supply issues and impact on the service
- Priorities over the next twelve months to help service improvement
- Plans for future fuel use in the vehicles
- Management of the consequences of the pandemic whilst continuing to provide the service to residents
- Comparisons of service performance
- Effects of the chargeable garden waste scheme on the service
- Anaerobic digestion treatment
- Missed collection rates
- Suspension of civic amenity site visits
- Health and safety near misses
- Recycling rates

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

- (a) the representatives from Veolia be thanked for their presentation of their Annual Report;
- (b) the report be noted.

RSC18 Fees and Charges Review 2022

This matter had been considered by Cabinet at its meeting held on 4 November 2021 and was submitted to this Committee for consultation.

The Committee considered the report of the Head of Finance (**V1** 25/10/21) in relation to proposed Fees and Charges for 2022.

The Committee discussed the following aspects of the report with the Head of Law and Administration:-

- Legal Fees
- The Saltings Mobile Homes Sire

RESOLVED:- that in exercise of the powers delegated to the Committee, the decision of the Cabinet as set out in Minute No CAB32/21, regarding the proposed Fees and Charges for 2022 be noted.

RSC19 Quarter 2 Performance Reporting

The Committee considered the performance and financial management details for those areas within the remit of the Committee for the quarter 2 period up to 30 September 2021.

The Committee discussed the following aspects of the report with the Corporate Business and Partnerships Manager, the Revenues and Benefits Manager, the Building Control Manager and the Group Human Resources and Payroll Manager:-

- Benefits processing times and arrears
- LI18 Building Control Customers satisfied or very satisfied with the service
- Staffing variations
- Budget monitoring variations

RESOLVED:- that in exercise of the powers delegated to the Committee, the performance and financial management data relating to areas of activity within this Committee's remit be noted.

RSC20 Review of the Constitution

Considered the report of the Head of Law and Administration relating to the need to review the Council's present Constitution and a mechanism with which to undertake such a review.

The Committee confirmed the following the following dates and times of the meetings in which to undertake the Review of the Constitution:-

- 5.00 pm on Tuesday 11 January 2022 (Before the scheduled Resources Scrutiny Committee on that evening)
- 5.30 pm on Monday 31 January 2022
- 5.30 pm on Tuesday 15 February 2022 (Followed by the scheduled Resources Scrutiny Committee on that evening to confirm the amendments)

RESOLVED:- that in exercise of the powers delegated to the Committee, a Task and Finish Review Working Group be established in order to undertake a review of the Council's Constitution.

RSC21 Work Programme - Resources Scrutiny Committee

Considered the report of the Head of Law and Administration (**V1** 03/08/2021), which presented the Resources Scrutiny Committee's Work Programme for the forthcoming meetings up to February 2022.

RESOLVED:- that in exercise of the powers delegated to the Committee, the Work Programme be approved.

CHAIR