

Chair - Councillor R P Cooke

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

Councillors:

A R G Brown

M G Dodson

A S Harp

R A James

W J Kemp

R Kenney

J A Nixon

G P K Pardesi

P Roycroft

Cabinet Member - Councillor R M Smith - Resources Portfolio

Cabinet Member - Councillor C V Trowbridge - Leisure Portfolio

Also in Attendance:- Councillors J Hood and A M Loughran

Mr K Murray - Freedom Leisure, Area Leisure and Culture
Manager

Mr J Rowe - Freedom Leisure, Regional Director

Officers in attendance:-

Mr T Clegg - Chief Executive

Mr I Curran - Head of Law and Administration

Mr P Kendrick - Head of Technology

Dr T Redpath - Corporate Business and Partnerships
Manager

Mr P Beckley - Building Control Manager

Mr P Gammon - Deputy Head of Operations

Mr L Booth - Corporate Contracts Manager

Mr R Wolfe - Revenues and Benefits Manager

Mr A Bailey - Scrutiny Officer

RSC8 **Minutes**

The Minutes of the last meeting held on 8 June 2021, as published on the Council's website, were submitted and signed.

RSC9 **Apologies**

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors A T A Godfrey (Substitute W J Kemp) and J K Price – Environment Portfolio.

RSC10 **Members' Item**

Councillors A T A Godfrey and G P K Pardesi have submitted the following item under Paragraph 2.8 of the Scrutiny Committee Procedure Rules:-

“We would like the committee to hear a verbal report from Mr Tim Clegg on his first few weeks as CEO at both Stafford Borough Council and Cannock Chase District Council.”

In response, the Chief Executive reported upon the activities that he had undertaken and the meetings that he had attended during his first few weeks as the Chief Officer at both Stafford Borough Council and Cannock Chase District Councils. He agreed to report back at a future meeting once there were more significant proposals concerning further shared services,

RESOLVED:- that in exercise of the powers delegated to the Committee, the Members' Item be noted.

RSC11 **Freedom Leisure Annual Report 2020 – 2021**

The Committee considered the report of the Head of Operations (V1 06/08/21) that provided the Committee with the Freedom Leisure Annual Report to scrutinise. The Annual Report had been received by the Council and covered the period from April 2020 to March 2021 in respect of the Leisure and Cultural Services contract that Freedom Leisure manage on behalf of the Council. The Annual Report has been written and created by Freedom Leisure.

Mr J Rowe, Regional Director and K Murray, Area Leisure and Culture Manager, Freedom Leisure, attended the meeting and presented the Annual Report to the Committee.

Following the introduction, the Committee clarified the following aspects of the report with the representatives from Freedom Leisure:-

- The “Sandford Award”
- The numbers of incidents/accidents there had been at the leisure centres over the time period of the report
- The ability to operate the contract given the reduction in staff numbers from 330 to 97
- The numbers of staff furloughed
- The managing of requests for refunds from residents for the Gatehouse
- The performance of the contract in terms of membership numbers across the two Leisure Centres
- The numbers of casual and zero hours workers
- Staff turnover
- The performance of other Freedom contracts across the country and the impact upon the Stafford contract

- The numbers of senior management that were furloughed and changes to senior management
- The contribution of Freedom Leisure to the climate change emergency
- The commitment of Freedom Leisure to the entire contract
- School swimming lessons
- Freedom Leisure's commitment to voluntary organisations
- Reassurance to residents that Freedom Leisure were providing a safe environment at all facilities
- Cardiac referrals from General Practitioners
- Support for Stafford and stone Canoe club
- Freedom Leisure Volunteers

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

- (a) that Freedom Leisure be thanked for their presentation of their Annual Report April 2020 to March 2021;
- (b) the impact that the Covid-19 forced closures of leisure and cultural activities has had on the performance of the outsourced Leisure and Cultural Activities contract, be noted;
- (c) the Freedom Leisure Annual Report April 2020 to March 2021 be noted.

RSC12 **Quarter 1 - Climate Change and Green Recovery**

The Committee considered a report (V1 24/08/21) that provided an update on the activities that have been undertaken in relation to climate change and green recovery for quarter one.

The Committee discussed the following aspects of the report with the Corporate Business and Partnerships Manager:-

- Clarification of the Council's target to become a carbon neutral authority by 2040
- Clarification how the panel of community representatives would be selected to work with the Council

RESOLVED:- that in exercise of the powers delegated to the Committee, the report be noted.

RSC13 **Quarter 1 Performance Reporting**

The Committee considered the performance management details for those areas within the remit of the Committee for the quarter 1 period up to 30 June 2021 (V1 30/07/2021).

The Committee discussed the following aspects of the report with the Corporate Business and Partnerships Manager and the Building Control Manager:-

- LI18 – Building Control Customers satisfied or very satisfied with the service – an explanation as to why the performance was below target and the actions taken to improve performance
- Hybrid working and customers having to use online methods of contact with the Council - reassurance was provided that there were many communications channels that were open to customers and how they made contact with Council services

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

RSC14 Work Programme - Resources Scrutiny Committee

Considered the report of the Head of Law and Administration (V1 3/8/21), 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