

# Minutes of the Resources Scrutiny Committee held at the Civic Centre, Riverside, Stafford on Tuesday 23 August 2022

Chairman - Councillor R P Cooke

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

Councillors:

B M Cross R A James
M G Dodson E G R Jones
A T A Godfrey R Kenney
A S Harp G P K Pardesi

Officers in attendance:-

Leader of the Council - Councillor P M M Farrington
Cabinet Member - Councillor M J Winnington - Environment Portfolio

Also present:- - Councillors J Hood, W J Kemp and

A M Loughran

Officers in attendance:-

Mr T Clegg - Chief Executive

Mr I Curran - Head of Law and Administration

Dr T Redpath - Interim Head of Corporate Business and

**Partnerships** 

Mr L Booth - Interim Neighbourhood Services Group Manager

Ms J McCloy - Interim Chief Accountant
Mrs B Martin - Assistant Contracts Manager

Mr A Bailey - Scrutiny Officer

#### **RSC8** Minutes

The Minutes of the last meeting held on 7 June 2022, as published on the Council's website, were submitted and signed.

## **RSC9** Apologies

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors I D Fordham and P Roycroft (Substitute B M Cross). An apology for absence was also received from Councillor R M Smith - Cabinet Member - Resources Portfolio. The Committee wished Councillor R M Smith well for a full and speedy recovery.

#### **RSC10** Councillor Session

Councillor J Hood introduced the following item for consideration by the Resources Scrutiny Committee in accordance with paragraph 2.7(c)(ii) of the Scrutiny Committee Procedure Rules:-

"I ask the Committee to discuss drafting and implementing a menopause policy on how to approach menopause in our workplace to support our staff."

The Committee welcomed the Councillor Session Item and agreed that a written response be provided.

RESOLVED:- that in exercise of the powers delegated to the Committee, a written response be provided to the Councillor Session Item.

#### **RSC11** Scrutiny of the Waste Contract

The Committee were provided with the Veolia Annual Report and Service Improvement Plan (V1 08/08/2022) to scrutinise. The Annual Report and Service Improvement Plan had been received by the Council and covered the period from April 2021 to March 2022 in respect of the Recycling and Waste Collection Services and Processing of Dry Recycling contract that Veolia managed on behalf of the Council. The Annual Report and Service Improvement Plan had been written 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:-

- Key 2021/22 Highlights
- Key 2021/22 Figures
- Reported Missed Collections
- Reported Assisted Missed Collections
- Containers Not returned Correctly Complaints
- Collected Weights
- Annual Service Improvement Plan 2022/23
- Strategic Improvement Plan 2022/23

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 reasons as to why part of the report had been redacted
- The local impact of the Government's forthcoming new waste and resources strategy
- Measures taken to reduce the carbon footprint of the organisation
- Plans for future fuel use in the vehicles

- The impact of inflation and the increased cost of living
- The management of 'near misses' and the reasons as to why they had increased
- The nature of lost time injuries and the steps taken to minimise the occurrence of such incidents
- Affects of the chargeable garden waste scheme on the service
- The management of missed assisted collections
- Strategies for the promotion of composting
- Strategies for the reduction of bin contamination
- Missed bin collections
- Educational promotions
- The relationships between the Trade Unions and workforce

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.

### **RSC12** Quarter 1 Performance Reporting

The Committee considered the performance and financial management details for those areas within the remit of the Committee for the 2022/23 quarter 1 period (**V1** 11/8/2022).

The Committee discussed the following aspects of the report with the Leader of the Council, the Interim Head of Corporate Business and Partnerships and the Interim Chief Accountant:-

- 3.1.2 Reduce emissions from our own activities
- Staffing variations
- Community Portfolio Increased utilities costs
- Environment Portfolio Crematorium utilities forecast increases (£41,000)
- Audit Risk Resilience Procurement
- Fixed Penalty Anti Social Behaviour Charges

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.

## **RSC13** Work Programme - Resources Scrutiny Committee

Considered the report of the Head of Law and Administration (**V1** 08/08/2022), which presented the Resources Scrutiny Committee's Work Programme for the forthcoming Municipal Year.

The Committee discussed training for the Planning Committee and potential dates for a guided visit to the Civic Centre Reception Area.

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

**CHAIR**