

OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY BOARD

A meeting of the Overview and Scrutiny Board was held on 3 July 2018.

PRESENT: Councillors M Storey (Chair), D P Coupe, E Dryden, A Hellaoui, T Higgins, L McGloin and J A Walker.

ALSO IN ATTENDANCE: J Cain (Press).

OFFICERS: A Humble, C Lunn, P Stephens.

APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE Councillors L Lewis, T Mawston, J McGee, P Purvis, M Saunders, J Sharrocks..

1 MINUTES - OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY BOARD - 5 JUNE 2018

The Chair reminded the Board that the Director of Children's Services was invited to attend OSB with regard to school reserves. It was agreed that this would happen at the meeting of 4th September 2018 to provide a full report on that issue.

The minutes were accepted as a true record provided that a formatting issue as point 6, paragraph 3 which read: 'step by step' should be changed to read 'step by step'.

2 BUDGET AND BALANCED SCORECARDS - POSITION AT YEAR-END 2017/18

The Head of Performance and Partnerships and the Senior Finance Business Partner for Children's Services provided a summary of the Budget and Balanced Score Cards: Quarter 4 (Year-End) 2017/18 report.

It was noted that the recommendations in paragraphs 2 and 3 of the report, namely in reference to transfers to the relevant reserves, had been mentioned previously. However, it was confirmed the figures cited in the report were now final and reflected the end of year position.

It was noted that after all transfers had been completed the Council's underspend was £287,000, or 0.25%, as well as 3% over delivery against the Council's capital budget.

It was also noted that the Council's level of borrowing, the amount in its General Reserves, and other specific reserves, were in line with expectations at March 2018.

A member queried if, when Education Services reported on the School underspend, information relating to Academies would be included. It was confirmed that this would not be the case as information was only available from maintained schools. It was noted that on the 31 March 2018 there were 22 maintained schools in Middlesbrough. There were a further 7 schools potentially moving to Academy status.

The Board discussed means by which information could be obtained from Academies including a possible approach to the Department for Education.

The performance results for the Council were summarised for Quarter 4 and it was noted that, overall, the Council's target was to achieve 75% of its targets and it had achieved this for 2017/18. It was commented that 2 Directorates had fallen below this target and this could be attributed to factors including spending on buildings that remained open but were scheduled to close, and children in need provision.

The Balanced Score Cards were highlighted at Appendix 2 of the report, and the Risk Register at Appendix 3.

It was commented that those areas of Risk associated with the Education department should be explored at the September meeting of OSB.

The Board commended the officers for the clarity of the report and the ease by which it could be read. The Chair also commented that the information provided within the report provided a pleasing picture of Council performance.

3 **NEW REPORT FORMAT**

The Head of Performance and Partnerships provided OSB with an overview of an example format for presenting Budget and Performance information. It was commented that the new format was more streamlined than previous versions.

The new format was more infographic and focussed on the Council's Strategic Priorities. There was also a greater emphasis on actions that needed to be carried out. It was noted that the example shown to OSB did not include Risks to the Council but that this would be added going forward.

A Member commented that it would be beneficial to include an explanation for key terminology.

A discussion took place concerning the amount of information contained within the new report format. A Member commented that, while the level of information provided would be useful, there would continue to be a need for officers to highlight important information. Ultimately, a balance would be required to provide both summary and detailed information to provide a full picture.

Members welcomed the improvements that had been made.

NOTED

4 **SCRUTINY WORK PROGRAMME 2018-19**

The Scrutiny Work programme report was outlined for Members.

It was noted that the titles, and associated information, of Scrutiny Panels at Paragraphs 3(a) and 3(b) should be reversed so that the Children and Young People's Social Care and Services Scrutiny Panel was cited at 3a and the Children and Young People's Learning Scrutiny Panel was cited at 3b.

It was also noted that at Paragraph 3(c) the wording 'if time permits' should be removed as this issue was statutory and something the Panel was required to examine.

The Chair of the Children and Young Peoples Social Care and Services Scrutiny Panel advised the Board of its work programme. The main investigations for the Panel were as follows:

1. Early Help and Prevention Services/Revolving Door Report.
2. Corporate Parenting.

The Panel also agreed it wished to receive updates in relation to:-

1. Review of the role and functions of the Safeguarding Children's Board (Wood Review).
2. Support to help children living with alcohol-dependent parents/info on Young Carers.

The Chair of the Children and Young Peoples Learning Scrutiny Panel advised that, in addition to their reviews, the panel would also seek updates regarding:

- SEND Review - potential Members' Briefing or Extraordinary meeting of the panel.

- Attendance and Behaviour - to be carried out later in the year.
- Listening to the Voice of the Child.

ORDERED:

1. That the amendments listed be made to the Scrutiny Work Programme report.
2. The Scrutiny Work Programme be agreed.

5 EXECUTIVE FORWARD WORK PROGRAMME

The Chief Executive submitted a report which identified the forthcoming issues to be considered by the Executive as outlined in Appendix A to the report.

The report provided the Overview and Scrutiny Board with the opportunity to consider whether any item contained within the Executive Forward Work Programme should be considered by the Board or referred to a Scrutiny Panel.

NOTED**6 SCRUTINY PANEL PROGRESS REPORTS**

The Chair of the Economic Development, Environment and Infrastructure Scrutiny Panel advised OSB that the final meeting of the Housing Delivery Vehicle investigation would be taking place on the 4 July 2018. Croydon, North Kesteven and North Tyneside Councils would present information about their Housing Delivery Vehicles. The Chair of the Panel advised that the expected recommendations would be what kind of Delivery Vehicle Middlesbrough should have and how it would operate best.

The Chair of the Children and Young People's Social Care and Services Scrutiny Panel advised that the panel had held their initial meeting and its second meeting would be held on the 29th July.

The Chair of the Children and Young People's Learning Scrutiny Panel advised that the Panel's initial meeting had generated media coverage and the Panel's next meeting would discuss contraceptive provision in schools.

The Chair of the Health Scrutiny Panel advised that the Panel had met and confirmed the Panel's work programme, including issues around Childhood Obesity and how this linked with the Council's Local Plan. The Panel was also continuing to progress the issue around the provision of respite care and the referral to the Secretary of State as well as examining the fragility of Health Service finances.

NOTED