

Key Decision Required	No	In the Forward Plan	No
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CABINET

14 DECEMBER 2018

REFERENCE REPORT FROM RESOURCES AND SERVICES OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY COMMITTEE OF 5 NOVEMBER 2018

A.2 PERFORMANCE REPORT 2018/2019 SECOND QUARTER

(Report prepared by Ian Ford, Ewan Green and Cath Bicknell)

BACKGROUND

At the meeting of the Resources and Services Overview and Scrutiny Committee held on 5 November 2018 (Minute 36 refers) the Committee had had before it a report of the Deputy Chief Executive which presented the Performance Report for Quarter Two (July to September 2018), including the Corporate Plan and Priorities and Projects 2018/19.

The Deputy Chief Executive (Martyn Knappett) outlined the purpose of the Performance Report as a 'snapshot' performance management tool i.e. it helped the Council's senior management and Members see if the Council was delivering what it had set out to deliver.

Appendix A to that report contained details of the 18 indicators and projects where performance was measured. Of those, 15 (84%) were on, or above, their expected target and 3 (16%) were not currently in line with the expected performance.

Members were informed that the Performance Report for Quarter Two would be presented to Cabinet on 9 November 2018. Any feedback from the Committee would be presented to a future meeting of the Cabinet as a separate reference report.

The Council's Human Resources & Business Manager (Katie Wilkins) gave the Committee an update in respect of the indicators and projects.

Officers responded to questions raised by Members on various topics and where an answer was not immediately available, the Human Resources & Business Manager undertook to respond to Members as soon as possible after the meeting.

In addition, the Deputy Chief Executive gave the Committee an update in respect of the "Transforming the Way We Work" Project and he responded to questions raised by Members. Where an answer was not immediately available, the Deputy Chief

Executive undertook to respond to Members as soon as possible after the meeting. Matters that the Deputy Chief Executive touched on included:-

- (1) Ongoing works at Pier Avenue and Northbourne Depot;
- (2) Barnes House Extension and Link – Tender Awarded;
- (3) Westleigh House – Timetable for demolition;
- (4) Town Hall works – Planning permission granted;
- (5) Firmstep: new customer portal;
- (6) Learning Zone – new e-learning platform; and
- (7) New HR Policies – Flexi Working and Remote Working.

In response to a question that had been submitted prior to the commencement of the meeting by Councillor Miles, the Deputy Chief Executive gave an update on the Council's regeneration plans for land at Mill Lane, Walton-on-the-Naze which included the old Fire Station building which was now the subject of a petition. He then answered Members' questions on this subject.

COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATIONS TO CABINET

Having considered and discussed the information provided it was:-

RESOLVED that this Committee recommends to Cabinet that –

“(a) in the light of recent events, an in-year review of the milestones for the Garden Community project and the Local Plan be carried out with a view to establishing new, more realistic targets and milestones for these projects; and

(b) an in-year review of the impact of the new National Planning Policy Framework's definitions of 'major and 'minor' applications on the Handling of Planning Applications speed of process figures be also carried out.”

Cabinet is now asked to consider the recommendations of the Resources and Services Overview and Scrutiny Committee.

PORTFOLIO HOLDER'S COMMENTS AND RECOMMENDATIONS TO CABINET

Comments

The Finance and Corporate Resources Portfolio Holder thanks the Resources and Services Overview and Scrutiny Committee for its consideration and its recommendations and he comments as follows:-

“(a) The milestones for the North Essex Garden Communities project and Local Plan will be updated upon confirmation of the next steps for the Local Plan Examination

process. This will likely be confirmed in December 2018 and milestones updated in January 2019.

(b) The Handling of Planning Applications is measured in line with the Government's Planning Performance Framework. An adjustment to the methodology for measuring speed of determination of major and non-major planning applications would have only a minor impact on performance. Performance against the targets for both major and non-major applications is good and the movement of some applications from one category to the other would be small."

Recommendations to Cabinet

(a) That Cabinet notes the Resources and Services Overview and Scrutiny Committee's recommendations and the Portfolio Holder's response thereto.