

RESOURCES AND SERVICES OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY COMMITTEE

18 MARCH 2019

REPORT OF DEPUTY CHIEF EXECUTIVE

A.2 REVIEW OF THE YEAR AND THE RESOURCES AND SERVICES OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY COMMITTEE'S WORK PROGRAMME FOR 2019/20

(Report prepared by Anastasia Simpson and Ian Ford)

PURPOSE OF THE REPORT

To review this year's work of the Resources and Services Overview and Scrutiny Committee and to seek Members' approval to a draft programme for the Committee, for the forthcoming municipal year.

BACKGROUND

The Resources and Services Overview and Scrutiny Committee is one of two overview and scrutiny committees established by the Council to specifically focus on the following areas of Council work:

- Financial Forecast
- Budget setting and monitoring (including the General Fund and Housing Revenue account)
- Service Delivery and Performance (where not delegated to the Community Leadership Overview and Scrutiny Committee)
- Procurement and Contract Management
- Transformation and Digital Standards
- Customer Service and Standards

The Constitution provides for the overview and scrutiny committees to submit a work programme to the Annual Meeting of the Council for approval. [Overview and Scrutiny Procedure Rule 7]

“Each Overview and Scrutiny Committee will submit a work programme for the year ahead and a review of the previous year's activities to the Annual Meeting of the full Council for approval. In addition, it will be responsible for co-ordinating and prioritising its work programme on an ongoing basis.”

In preparing, co-ordinating and prioritising its programme, each Overview and Scrutiny Committee will take into account:

- *The General Role and Principles of undertaking its functions, as set out in Part 2 Article 6;*
- *The planned work on the preparation of elements of the Budget and Policy Framework, as set out in the Council's Business Plan;*

- *The need for statutory timetables to be met;*
- *The wishes of all members of the committee;*
- *Requests from the Cabinet to carry out reviews; and*
- *Requests from Group Leaders in accordance with Rule 8.”*

WORK CARRIED OUT TO DATE

Review of the Year

The review of the municipal year 2018 to 2019 is attached as Appendix A.

Proposed Work Programme

The Resources and Services Scrutiny Committee will have a number of “routine” items that appear on an annual basis, which are vital to ensure the Council, as a whole, is performing efficiently and effectively, managing its resources in the very best interest of the community it serves, and complying with the appropriate legislation and guidelines. This includes financial forecast, budget setting and monitoring and performance.

Meetings of task and finish groups can be called as required following the terms of reference being agreed by the Committee.

The proposed work programme is set out as Appendix B.

The Committee is invited to put forward any items it might wish to be considered as part of its formal business within the programme of meetings.

RECOMMENDATIONS

- (a) That the report on the review of the year 2018 to 2019, detailed in Appendix A, be noted;**
- (b) That the Committee determines whether it wishes to agree the draft 2019/2020 Work Programme, as set out in Appendix B, for submission to the Annual Meeting of the Council; and**
- (c) That the Committee considers whether it has any further items it wishes to include within the 2019/2020 Work Programme.**

BACKGROUND PAPERS FOR THE DECISION

There are none.

A.2 - APPENDIX A

RESOURCES AND SERVICES OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY COMMITTEE

REVIEW OF WORK CARRIED OUT 2018 – 2019 MUNICIPAL YEAR

FORTHCOMING DECISIONS

- ◆ The Committee, in accordance with the Constitution, reviewed forthcoming executive decisions on a regular basis.

CORPORATE BUDGET AND FINANCIAL FORECAST MONITORING

- ◆ The Committee, at its meetings held on 2 July, 17 September and 29 November 2018 and 18 March 2019, reviewed the Council's budgetary position and latest financial forecast on a quarterly basis and made comments and recommendations to Cabinet, as appropriate.

PERFORMANCE MANAGEMENT

- ◆ On 21 May, 17 September and 5 November 2018 and 11 February 2019 and 12 March 2018 the Committee reviewed the Council's performance management position on a quarterly basis and made comments and recommendations to Cabinet, as appropriate.

21 MAY 2018

1. The role of the Resources and Services Overview and Scrutiny Committee

The Chief Executive (Ian Davidson) attended the meeting to discuss with Members the role of the Committee and that of scrutiny generally within the new committee structure.

The Chief Executive then responded to Members' questions on his address and other matters.

2. Work Programme 2018/19

Members were requested to consider the items that would be looked at by the Committee; those that should be looked at by a Task and Finish Working Group; and those items that should be the subject of an All Member Briefing.

Members were also requested to decide the size, composition and terms of reference for any Task and Finish Working Group that it decided to set up at this meeting.

The 2018/2019 Work Programme for the Committee that was approved at the Annual Meeting of the Council held on 24 April 2018 was Members for their reference. The Committee was made aware that two additional items had been provisionally added to its work programme with respect to its meeting due to be held on 25 June 2018 namely:

- 1) Update on Transformation Project; and
- 2) LGA Peer Challenge Action Plan - Reference from Cabinet.

The Committee was also informed that, at the final meeting of the Service Development and Delivery Committee held on 4 April 2018, Committee Members had considered, amongst other things, what items, if any, to put forward for inclusion in the 2018/2019

Work Programme for the new Resources and Services Overview and Scrutiny Committee.

One of those items put forward had been "Review of Tendring Closed Road Rally 2018". That item had duly been included in the 2018/2019 Work Programme for the Resources and Services Overview and Scrutiny Committee that was submitted to, and approved by, the Annual Meeting of the Council on 24 April 2018.

The Monitoring Officer had subsequently pointed out that this item, due to the fact that the Road Rally was not a Council run event, should actually be on the Work Programme for the Community Leadership Overview and Scrutiny Committee as the Rally involved the Council working with external bodies (Essex Police, rally organisers, public etc.) on matters such as community safety. Therefore that item had now been removed from this Committee's Work Programme and reallocated to the Community Leadership Overview and Scrutiny Committee's Work Programme.

RESOLVED that the following amendments be made to the Committee's Work Programme for 2018/2019:-

- (1) 25 June 2018 – the update on Careline and the Lifting Service be deleted and instead submitted to an All Member Briefing;*
- (2) 25 June 2018 – the LGA Action Plan Reference from Cabinet be moved from this meeting to the meeting on 30 July 2018;*
- (3) 25 June 2018 – the review of environmental issues in the light of the waste contract changes item to also now include a review of recycling rates;*
- (4) 30 July 2018 – an item updating the Committee on the production of a new District wide Tourism Strategy to be included; and*
- (5) 17 September 2018 – an item to enable the Committee to review how the new overview and scrutiny arrangements are bedding in to be included.*

2 JULY 2018

1. Transformation Update

The Deputy Chief Executive (Martyn Knappett) and the Head of Property Services (Andy White) attended the meeting and gave an update of the Transformation Project.

Martyn Knappett reminded the Committee of the background to the project together with an overview of recent progress.

Andy White then gave an update on the four main strands of the project namely IT, HR, Customer Services and Buildings as follows:-

Information Technology

- (1) Cloud Migration;
- (2) Network Redesign;
- (3) Self Service Portals; and
- (4) Proposed Leisure App.

Human Resources

- 3) Policy Reviews;
- 4) E-learning Portal;

- 5) Training; and
- 6) Future Leaders Programme.

Customer Services

- (6) Backscanning;
- (7) Self Service Kiosks;
- (8) Centralised Printing; and
- (9) Centralised Post.

Buildings

- (1) Pier Avenue;
- (2) Barnes House;
- (3) Westleigh House;
- (4) Northbourne depot; and
- (5) Town Hall.

Following a question and answer session, the Committee noted the foregoing.

2. Review of Environmental Issues

The Street Scene Officer (Jon Hamlet) attended the meeting to assist the Committee in reviewing environmental issues in the light of the changes to the Domestic Waste Collection and Recycling Contract and also the Council's current performance with regard to recycling rates.

Jon Hamlet gave a presentation that focused on the following matters:-

- (1) Recycling Rates (%) 2012/13 – 2017/18;
- (2) Refuse (Tonnes) 2012/13 – 2017/18;
- (3) Total Recycling Tonnage (Total Recycled/Total Dry Recycling/Total Compost) 2012/13 – 2017/18;
- (4) Plastic and Cans (Tonnes) 2013/14 – 2017/18;
- (5) Food Waste (Tonnes) 2012/13 – 2017/18;
- (6) Garden Waste Tonnes 2014/15 – 2017/18;
- (7) Paper and Card (Tonnes) 2013/14 – 2017/18;
- (8) Recycling Credits (£68 per tonne); and
- (9) New Service Provision – Alternative Weekly 180 litre bin collection; Projected 8% increase in recycling rates; and alternative provisions considered.

Following a question session, the Chairman stated that due to the lateness of the hour any Member who had a question that they had been unable to submit should email that question to the Head of People, Performance and Projects by the end of the week in order that a response(s) could be collated and then sent to Members of the Committee.

The Chairman also stated that consideration of whether to set up a Task and Finish Working Group to look at waste and recycling matters would be deferred until the next meeting of the Committee.

The Committee noted the foregoing.

30 JULY 2018

1. Terms of Reference – Working Group on Recycling

Further to its discussions on environmental issues at the last meeting (Minute 14 referred), the Committee gave consideration to the terms of reference for the Working Group that would carry out a review of recycling.

It was RESOLVED that the terms of reference, membership et cetera for the Working Group that would carry out a review of recycling be as follows:-

Review Topic: INCREASING RECYCLING
<p>How does the topic fit with the Committee's Terms of Reference:</p> <p>Refuse collection is probably the most widespread and frequent public facing service provided by the Council.</p>
<p>What question is the review aiming to answer:</p> <p>What steps can the Council take to ensure that the maximum possible increase in recycling levels is achieved?</p>
<p>Aim / Objectives:</p> <p>To identify measures which the Resources and Services Overview and Scrutiny Committee can recommend to Cabinet for implementation to maximise recycling (and recycling credits paid to TDC).</p>
<p>Scope:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Review current measures / activities and their effectiveness • Consider successful initiatives by other Authorities / good practice • Consider communications / events / initiatives etc. • Identify most appropriate proposals for Tending to complement the roll out of new working arrangements. • Identify a proposed activity timeline if appropriate. • Conclude with recommendations to the Resources and Services Overview and Scrutiny Committee in a form they can adopt and refer on to Cabinet for consideration.
<p>Membership (including officer support):</p> <p>Councillors Everett (Chairman), Alexander, Broderick and Scott</p> <p>Officer Support – Jonathan Hamlet</p>
<p>Timescale:</p> <p>Identify proposals for consideration by the Resources and Services Overview and Scrutiny Committee by November 2018.</p>

2. Corporate Peer Challenge – Action Plan

The Committee was aware that, on 18 May 2018, the Cabinet had considered the Peer Review Action Plan arising from the feedback report on the Local Government

Association Corporate Peer Challenge of Tendring District Council that had taken place during March 2018. Cabinet had resolved that (minute 151 referred):

- (a) the Peer Review Action Plan be approved;*
- (b) Cabinet notes that further updates will be provided in October 2018 and March 2019; and*
- (c) the report be referred to the Resources and Services Overview and Scrutiny Committee for its information and review.*

In accordance with the Cabinet's decision the Cabinet report referred to above together with the Peer Review Action Plan was attached as Appendix A to the Report of the Deputy Chief Executive for the Committee's consideration.

The Committee had had circulated to it prior to the commencement of the meeting a copy of the LGA Feedback Report.

The Deputy Chief Executive (Martyn Knappett) undertook, in respect of the following, to discuss those matters further with the relevant Officers and to respond to the Committee where appropriate:-

- (1) in relation to Action K4, whether the Head of Finance, Revenues and Benefits could give an update to the December meeting of the Committee;
- (2) in relation to Action K1, the Council's public communications with residents in the west and north of the District; and
- (3) in relation to Action K3, why the Equality Impact Assessments are not due to be completed until at least October 2018.

Having considered and discussed the contents of the Cabinet report and the Peer Review Action Plan it was:-

RESOLVED that the Committee –

- (a) acknowledges the Officers' excellent report based on the LGA's feedback; and*
- (b) expresses its disappointment that the LGA did not involve town and parish councils in the corporate peer review and requests Officers to feed this back to the LGA.*

3. District-wide Tourism Strategy Update

The Head of Sport and Leisure (Mike Carran) attended the meeting and gave an update to the Committee on the production of a new District wide Tourism Strategy.

The update touched on the following:-

- (i) that the Strategy was due to be produced by October 2018;
- (ii) the ever closer working relationships with the private sector and the voluntary sector (such as on successful initiatives like Love Clacton and the Coastal Communities Group) and the lessons to be taken into the Strategy; and
- (iii) new models for marketing and promoting tourism and the importance of "Local Pride" in tourism within the District.

Mr Carran then outlined to the Committee the nine key focuses of the new Strategy, namely:-

- (1) Two tier focus on Events;
- (2) Council's role in facilitating as well as leading on Events;
- (3) Tourism promotion;
- (4) Digital marketing;
- (5) Increasing sector confidence for example through increasing investment;
- (6) Developing the seafront offer;
- (7) Developing the heritage offer for example the Mayflower 400 project;
- (8) Partnership working; and
- (9) Promoting the district for outdoor activity.

The Corporate Director (Operational Services) (Paul Price) then addressed the Committee and emphasised that tourism was a fast moving, agile economy and that this had not been taken into account in the previous Tourism Strategy (2010-16). The private sector had not been involved in the formulation of that Strategy. The Strategy had not focused on the visitor economy from within the District as well as that from outside the District. In the new Strategy there was a greater emphasis on the Council's role of facilitation.

Having considered and discussed the information provided it was:-

RESOLVED that this Committee recommends to Cabinet that –

- (a) the parish and town councils within the District be included as part of the consultation process on the emerging Tourism Strategy; and*
- (b) in view of the fact that tourism generates £372million income for the District, additional funding be allocated to the Tourism Section within the Operational Services department in order to ensure that it is fully resourced.*

4. Review of Homeless Provision

The Head of Housing and Environmental Health (Tim R Clarke) attended the meeting to assist the Committee in reviewing the Council's homelessness service provision.

Mr Clarke outlined to the Committee the impact on the Council of recent changes to the statutory duties the Council had in respect of homelessness. Mr Clarke also outlined the recent increases in Government funding awards to the Council in order to assist it in dealing with homelessness.

Having considered and discussed the information provided it was:-

RESOLVED that the information provided by the Head of Housing and Environmental Health be noted.

17 SEPTEMBER 2018

1. Work Programme 2018/2019

At the request of the Chairman, the Committee reconsidered its work programme for 2018/2019 in order to decide the items that will be considered by the Committee; those that should be looked at by a Task and Finish Working Group; those items that should be the subject of an All Member Briefing and those items that should be entirely deleted from the work programme.

Having discussed the matter it was –

RESOLVED that the following amendments be made to the Committee's Work Programme for 2018/2019:-

5 November 2018 – remove Clacton Airshow to an All-Member Briefing.

5 November 2018 – add Recycling – Task and Finish

5 November 2018 – Remove Corporate Budget Monitoring 2018/19 Second Quarter as this report is not going to Cabinet until 9th November 2018.

Add an additional meeting before the meeting of 17th December 2018 for Corporate Budget Monitoring 2018/19 Second Quarter.

5 NOVEMBER 2017

1. Review of the implementation of the new overview and scrutiny arrangements

The Committee discussed its experience of the new Overview and Scrutiny arrangements since their implementation in May 2018 with a view to submitting its comments and/or recommendations to the Finance and Corporate Resources Portfolio Holder's Constitution Review Working Party who would be conducting a review of the new committee structure also introduced in May 2018.

Following those discussions it was:-

RESOLVED that the following comments be submitted to the Portfolio Holder's Constitution Review Working Party namely that –

(1) the terms of reference of the Resources and Services and Community Leadership Overview and Scrutiny Committees should be looked at with a view to making them 'more equal' in workload. A suggestion is that leisure and tourism matters could be reallocated to the Community Leadership Committee;

(2) there should be a sharper focus on the remit, scope, responsibilities and expected outcomes of Task and Finish Working Groups. A suggestion is that guidance in the form of an Overview and Scrutiny handbook should be produced;

(3) better attendance of Members at All Member Briefings should be encouraged; and

(4) the Committee reiterates the importance of providing training on overview and scrutiny matters to those Members who have been appointed to serve on an overview and scrutiny committees immediately after the Annual Meeting of the Council in May 2019.

2. Work Programme 2018/2019

Members discussed the following three items that were due to be considered at its next meeting on 29 November 2018:-

- Corporate Budget Monitoring 2018/19 Second Quarter (including update on Financial Forecast)
- Recycling - Task & Finish Group's Final Report
- Tourism Strategy

It was moved by Councillor Scott and seconded by Councillor Amos that the Tourism Strategy be removed from the Committee's work programme and instead be made the subject of an All Members' Briefing, which vote on being put to the vote was declared **LOST**.

It was then:-

RESOLVED that the meeting of the Committee due to be held on Thursday 29 November 2018 will now commence at 7.00 p.m. and not 7.30 p.m. as previously scheduled.

29 NOVEMBER 2018 (SPECIAL MEETING)

1. Tourism Strategy

Pursuant to the provisions of Overview and Scrutiny Procedure Rule 13 and the decision taken by the Committee at its meeting held on 17 September 2018, the Committee scrutinise the emerging Tourism Strategy with a view to submitting its comments and/or recommendations to the Cabinet. Cabinet would then agree a draft Strategy which would go out for further consultation.

The Portfolio Holder for Leisure and Tourism (Councillor Skeels Snr.) and the Corporate Director (Operational Services)(Paul Price) attended the meeting.

The Corporate Director gave a presentation on the emerging Strategy which covered the following matters:-

- Scope of Strategy
- Establishing the Road Map
- Background Strategic Planning Process
- Taking Stock
- Corporate Road Map
- Reviewing the Inputs
- Vision
- Mission Statement
- Strategic Goals
- Objectives
- Tactics
- Strategic Positioning
- Corporate Social Responsibility and
- Recommendations for Success.

Members raised questions and/or concerns which were responded to by the Corporate Director and/or the Portfolio Holder.

The Committee noted the contents of the presentation.

2. Final Report of Task and Finish Working Group on Recycling

The Committee recalled that, at its meeting held on 30 July 2018 it had, inter alia, agreed the brief for a Task and Finish Working Group to undertake a review of recycling, with a view of finding ways to increase recycling rates within the District. That Group had comprised four members of the Committee (Councillors Alexander, Broderick, Everett and Scott) with Councillor Everett acting as its Chairman.

It was reported that the Working Group had now completed its review and its detailed report was attached at Appendix A to item A.1 of the Report of the Head of People, Performance and Projects.

Having considered and discussed the Working Group's report:-

It was moved by Councillor Scott, seconded by Councillor Miles and:-

RESOLVED that the contents of the Working Group's report be endorsed and that the Committee RECOMMENDS TO CABINET that:

1) The Portfolio Holder writes to every school across Tendring (Primary, Secondary and Colleges) to ask them what they do to support the recycling agenda and encourage recycling within their individual establishments.

2) Any future publications regarding recycling are clear, concise, with hints and tips to encourage recycling.

3) A cross party working group is established to review the recycling and waste needs across the District. This should be undertaken two years prior to any new contract.

The Committee thanked Councillor Everett and the Task and Finish group members for all their hard work.

17 DECEMBER 2018

1. Updated Financial Forecast and Budget 2019/20

The Committee's comments were sought on the updated Financial Forecast/Budget 2019/20, which had been approved at the meeting of the Cabinet held on 14 December 2018. The Committee was aware that an updated financial forecast for 2019/20 had been prepared which reflected changes since Members had last considered the forecast in November 2018.

The Chief Executive (Ian Davidson) attended the meeting and informed the Committee that the Local Government Finance Settlement had now been received from the Government. Whilst the Settlement would be difficult for those authorities who had adult social care responsibilities (such as County Councils and Unitary Councils), Tendring District Council had been pretty accurate in its predictions and therefore no major changes were required to the Cabinet's initial budget proposals. He stated that this Council's move to a 'rolling' ten year financial forecast had proved to be a 'boon' in that it had helped to protect a lot of frontline services with its ability to average out savings across the ten year profile. Mr Davidson was pleased to report that the Council had met its £300,000 savings target for 2019/20 and that the ongoing aim was to beat this on an annual basis.

The Chairman thanked the Chief Executive for his attendance and Mr Davidson then left the meeting.

The Finance and Corporate Resources Portfolio Holder (Councillor G V Guglielmi) attended the meeting and stated that he was pleased that the Council's bold approach and robust ten year financial forecast had enabled it to meet its savings target over the last two years more than comfortably. This had enabled the Council to invest in the following:-

- (1) Phase 3A Broadband;
- (2) Harwich Realm, and
- (3) Garden Communities.

In addition, the Council had monies in reserve to meet any difficulties arising with Universal Credit and the business rates retention. Councillor Guglielmi referred to the new culture of constant review of expenditure where by cost pressures and areas for potential savings which required hard decisions could be identified and actioned with no cuts to services. Finally, Councillor Guglielmi referred to the level of planning income which had plateaued due to a decline in the number of planning applications.

Councillor Guglielmi then responded to questions put to him by Members. The Chairman thanked Councillor Guglielmi for his attendance and Councillor Guglielmi then left the meeting.

The Head of Finance, Revenues & Benefits Services (Richard Barrett), outlined the changes in the financial forecast since it had last been considered plus the possible implications for the future. Mr Barrett also informed the Committee that a New Homes Bonus of £1.18 million was available for one-off expenditure by the Cabinet.

Mr Barrett, together with the Head of People, Performance and Projects (Anastasia Simpson), then responded to Members' questions.

The Committee then adjourned for lunch (Noon – 12.50 p.m.). Following that adjournment the Committee resumed and considered the following matters:-

Mr Barrett outlined to the Committee the Initial Net Savings Items 2019/20 and responded to Members' questions thereon.

Mr Barrett then drew to the Committee's attention the Updated Cost pressure Summary for 2019/20 and responded to Members' questions thereon.

Councillors Baker and Stephenson each declared a Personal Interest when the Committee's discussions touched on the subject of Disabled Facilities Grants insofar as both had close family members who had been in receipt of a Disabled Facilities Grant.

Following a discussion of the day's events the Chairman adjourned the meeting until 9.30 a.m. on Thursday 3 January 2019 at which time the Committee would ask questions of members of the Cabinet with regards to service delivery matters related to items in the Financial Forecast that were relevant to their respective portfolios. The Committee would then decide what comments and/or recommendations it wished to submit to Cabinet in relation to the updated Financial Forecast/Budget 2019/20.

3 JANUARY 2019

1. Scrutiny of Members of the Cabinet in respect of service delivery of items in the Financial Forecast

Following the adjournment of its meeting held on 17 December 2018, the Committee resumed its scrutiny of the Financial Forecast / Budget proposals for 2019/20 as follows:-

Members of the Cabinet, accompanied by the appropriate Management Team Member, attended the meeting in turn and answered questions put to them by the members of the Committee.

Having considered all of the information that had been given to the Committee and having reconsidered the possible comments and recommendations to Cabinet that had been discussed at the meeting held on 17 December 2018:-

It was RESOLVED that the following are the Committee's final and definitive COMMENTS/RECOMMENDATIONS to be submitted to the Cabinet:-

- 1. The Cabinet, via the LGA, lobbies Government about local business rates and how much that can be retained by local Councils. The Council expects to be able to retain as much as possible from the business rates collected locally, so that funding can be used to support key priorities such as the eradication of coastal deprivation across the Tendring area.*
- 2. That Cabinet supports the continuation of the Grant Co-Ordinator post. Ideally the post should be funded from external funds. However, if this is not possible it is recommended that the Cabinet given serious consideration to the continuation of this post through alternative resources.*
- 3. The Milton Road car park business case should be considered as part of the wider Harwich public realm review.*

The Committee Comments that;

- 1. The Government wants local Councils to be self-sufficient and Tendring District Council, alongside other Councils, does not want to have to rely on government funding. A fair deal is required for local Councils to enable this to be achieved.*

11 FEBRUARY 2019

1. Review of the Beside the Seaside Festivals 2018

The Council's Head of Sport and Leisure (Mike Carran) attended the meeting and gave a presentation to the Committee which reviewed the Beside the Seaside Festivals in 2018.

Mr Carran's presentation included the following matters:-

(1) Objectives

- Maximisation of tourist opportunities through events;
- "book-end" the summer season with the Clacton Air Show;
- Raise the profile of the 'Blue Flag' beach in Dovercourt Bay; and
- Work with partners.

(2) The Event

- Traditional seaside entertainment;
- Live music/entertainment;
- 'Have a Go' activities; and
- Engagement with community groups.

(3) The 'Big Issues'

- An additional community event in Frinton-on-Sea;
- Recycling money;
- Attendance;
- Cost of the event;
- Economic impact on the local economy; and
- The weather.

(4) Learning points for 2019

- Revert to an earlier month for Clacton (i.e. June rather than July);
- Work closely with local businesses;
- Dovercourt event was too 'spaced out';
- Work towards financial sustainability; and
- Investigate possibilities of linking with other events.

Mr Carran then responded to Members' questions on his presentation.

The Chairman then thanked Mr Carran for his attendance and the information that he had provided to the Committee.

2. Annual Treasury Strategy for 2019/20 (including the Prudential and Treasury indicators)

The Committee's comments were sought on the Annual Treasury Strategy for 2019/20 (including the Prudential and Treasury indicators).

It was reported that on 5 February 2019, the Finance and Corporate Resources Portfolio Holder had agreed the Annual Treasury Strategy for 2019/20 (including the Prudential and Treasury Indicators) for consultation with the Resources and Services Overview and Scrutiny Committee.

Members were aware that the Local Government Act 2003 and supporting regulations required the Council to set out its treasury strategy for borrowing, and to prepare an Annual Investment Strategy (as required by Investment Guidance subsequent to the Act) that set out the Council's policies for managing its investments and for giving priority to the security and liquidity of those investments, "having regard" to the Chartered Institute of Public Finance and Accountancy's (CIPFA) Prudential Code and the CIPFA Treasury Management Code of Practice. Revised editions of both those documents had been issued in December 2017.

The Committee was informed that the revised guidance issued in 2017 also required the Council to update its Capital Strategy annually. Rather than produce two separate documents and as they were closely linked the Capital Strategy had been combined with the Treasury Strategy in one document.

It was reported that the Capital Strategy element of the combined document covered the various elements surrounding capital investment decisions and the key criteria that investment decisions should be considered against.

Similarly, the Treasury Strategy element of the combined document covered the various elements that satisfied the requirements of the various codes that governed the

borrowing and investment activities of the Council and had been prepared in the light of advice received from the Council's Treasury advisors and reflected the latest codes and guidance.

Members were advised that under the Prudential Code the Council had freedom over capital expenditure as long as it was prudent, affordable and sustainable. The Prudential Indicators either measured the expected activity or introduced limits upon the activity, and reflected the underlying capital appraisal systems and enabled the Council to demonstrate that it was complying with the requirements of the Prudential Code.

The Committee was reminded that the Council's investments would be undertaken in accordance with its Treasury Management Practices. Those had been expanded to include use of non-specified investment in property to yield both rental income and capital gains from 2016/17. If credit ratings remained at their current low levels it was likely that a significant proportion of the Council's investments would continue to be in Government securities such as Treasury Bills or with other Local Authorities. However, other 'quality' investment opportunities would be explored in consultation with the Council's external advisors in order to maximise returns on investments within a continuing and overall risk-averse approach.

A copy of the report submitted to the Portfolio Holder together with the proposed Annual Capital and Treasury Strategy for 2019/20 (including the Prudential and Treasury Indicators) was attached as an appendix to item A.2 of the Report of the Deputy Chief Executive.

The Head of Finance, Revenues & Benefits Services informed the Committee that as the 2018/19 Annual Treasury Strategy had already reflected many of the new requirements only minor updates had been necessary for the 2019/20 Strategy, namely the inclusion of the Capital Strategy within the combined document. No other significant changes were proposed in the Annual Capital and Treasury Strategy for 2019/20 with limited amendments in areas such as the general economic outlook and interest rate forecasts, with the Council maintaining a very low risk appetite approach to its treasury activities.

RESOLVED that the Committee both notes the contents of the Annual Capital and Treasury Strategy for 2019/20 and agrees that it does not need to submit any comments for the Cabinet's consideration.

18 MARCH 2018

- 1. Review the impact of the Public Convenience Strategy and future plans for a charging model**
- 2. Review of the Year and Work Programme for 2019/20**

CALL-INS

- ◆ The Committee received no call-ins during 2018/19.

A.2 - APPENDIX B

RESOURCES AND SERVICES OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY COMMITTEE 2019/2020 MUNICIPAL YEAR

DRAFT WORK PROGRAMME

Meeting Date	Topic
10 June 2019	<ul style="list-style-type: none">◆ Performance Report 2018/19 Fourth Quarter and Outturn◆ Replacement of Careline Computer and Call Handling System
29 July 2019	<ul style="list-style-type: none">◆ Final Budget Position/Finance Forecast Update
16 September 2019	<ul style="list-style-type: none">◆ Performance Report 2019/20 First Quarter◆ Corporate Budget and Financial Forecast Monitoring 2019/20 First Quarter
28 November 2019	<ul style="list-style-type: none">◆ Performance Report 2019/20 Second Quarter◆ Corporate Budget and Financial Forecast Monitoring 2019/20 Second Quarter
16 December 2019	<ul style="list-style-type: none">◆ Initial Budget 2020/21 and Financial Forecast Scrutiny Detailed Review
6 January 2020	<ul style="list-style-type: none">◆ (TBC) Initial Budget 2020/21 and Financial Baseline Scrutiny Detailed Review
17 February 2020	<ul style="list-style-type: none">◆ Annual Capital & Treasury Strategy Scrutiny◆ Performance Report 2019/20 Third Quarter
23 March 2020	<ul style="list-style-type: none">◆ Corporate Budget and Financial Forecast Monitoring 2019/20 Third Quarter◆ Review of the Year and Work Programme 2020.2021

To Be Arranged

Review of the Council's Public Convenience Strategy