

FAREHAM

BOROUGH COUNCIL

Minutes of the Policy and Resources Scrutiny Panel (to be confirmed at the next meeting)

Date: Thursday, 3 March 2022

Venue: Collingwood Room - Civic Offices

PRESENT:

Councillor Mrs S M Bayford (Chairman)

Councillor N J Walker (Vice-Chairman)

Councillors: Miss J Bull, Miss T G Harper, Mrs C L A Hockley and G Kelly

Also Present: Councillor J S Forrest (Item 7)



1. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

An apology of absence was received from Councillor M R Daniells.

2. MINUTES

RESOLVED that the minutes of the Policy and Resources Scrutiny Panel meeting held on 20 January 2022 be confirmed and signed as a correct record.

3. CHAIRMAN'S ANNOUNCEMENTS

There were no Chairman's announcements made at this meeting.

4. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST AND DISCLOSURES OF ADVICE OR DIRECTION

There were no declarations of interest made at this meeting.

5. DEPUTATIONS

There were no deputations made at this meeting.

6. DAEDALUS FINANCE STRATEGY

The Panel considered a report by the Deputy Chief Executive Officer on the Daedalus Finance Strategy.

Members confirmed that they agreed with the strategy and thought it was well balanced.

RESOLVED that the Panel: -

(i) Notes the content of the report; and

(ii) Recommends that the Executive endorses the strategy, when it is considered at its meeting on 7 March 2022.

7. MOTION ON LIVE STREAMING OF MEETINGS

The Panel considered a presentation and took part in a debate lead by the Head of Democratic Services on the motion made to Council by Councillor J Forrest which related to live streaming of meetings.

At the invitation of the Chairman, Councillor J Forrest addressed the Panel on this item and presented his motion and reasoning behind it.

The Head of Democratic Services gave a brief presentation to the Panel outlining the background of how and when live streaming started and the reasons why it has now ceased. She also outlined the various options that could be available to the Council, as well as highlighting the key considerations.

All members recognised the benefit of live streaming meetings is as way of maximising the transparency of the Council's democratic decision-making process, and they acknowledged that there will be some people who would prefer to watch meetings from the comfort of their own home rather than having to travel into the Civic Offices.

However, members also acknowledged that there is a significant cost involved in being able to provide this service, along with additional staffing resources, and many argued that in the current financial climate this money could be better used for other services.

There was also an acknowledgement that the demand for this from the customer is very low and even during lockdown when the Council meetings could only be viewed via live streamed channels, the viewing figures were not substantial, leading some members to question the value for money for on-going live streaming.

Councillor Forrest reiterated that his opinion was that by re-introducing live streaming it could help to alleviate the mis-information that is often reported, especially on social media platforms. Some members did not feel that this would happen and believed that it could lead to more mis-information being reported.

RESOLVED that the Panel: -

- (i) Thank the Head of Democratic Services for her presentation and informative debate on live streaming of meetings; and
- (ii) Acknowledge that a report will come back to the Panel later in the year detailing the options available for the live streaming of meetings taking account of the Panel comments above.

8. EXECUTIVE BUSINESS

The Panel considered the Executive items of business which falls under the remit of the Policy and Resources Portfolio, including Executive Member decisions and Officer delegated decisions, that have taken place since the last meeting of the Panel on 20 January 2022.

The Panel considered the decisions at items 8(1) to 8(6) of the agenda.

(1) Capital Programme and Capital Strategy 2022-23

No comments were received.

(2) Finance Strategy, Capital Programme, Revenue Budget & Council Tax 2022-23

There were no comments received.

(3) Gambling - Review of Statement of Principles

There were no comments received.

(4) Housing Revenue Account 2022-23

There were no comments received.

(5) Treasury Management Strategy 2022-23

There were no comments received.

(6) Welborne Delivery - Disposal of Residential Property

There were no comments received.

9. SCRUTINY PRIORITIES

The Deputy Chief Executive Officer addressed the Panel on this item and offered members the opportunity to put forward any items that they may wish to consider a future meeting.

There were no items put forward on this occasion.

(The meeting started at 6.00 pm
and ended at 7.16 pm).