

FAREHAM

BOROUGH COUNCIL

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

Date: Thursday, 22 September 2022

Venue: Collingwood Room - Civic Offices

PRESENT:

Councillor Mrs S M Bayford (Chairman)

Councillor N J Walker (Vice-Chairman)

Councillors: F Birkett, M R Daniells, Miss T G Harper, Mrs K Mandry and
D J Hamilton

**Also
Present:**



1. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

There were no apologies of absence.

2. MINUTES

RESOLVED that the minutes of the Policy and Resources Scrutiny Panel meeting held on 11 July 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. CORPORATE STRATEGY ANNUAL REPORT AND LOCAL SERVICE AGREEMENTS 2021-2022

The Panel considered a report by the Director of Leisure and Community which provided a review to the Council's Corporate Strategy and the Local Service Agreements 2021-22.

The Chairman requested an update on the progress of the redevelopment of Ferneham Hall. The Deputy Chief Executive Officer confirmed that work has now started to demolish parts of the building, and the project is currently on track, with the intention of the new venue opening by the Spring of 2024.

Members all confirmed that they were happy with the proposed changes set out in Appendix C of the report and had no further comments for consideration.

RESOLVED that the Policy and Resources Scrutiny Panel recommends to the Executive at its meeting on 7 November 2022 that: -

- (i) It endorses the revisions to the strategy as set out in Appendix C to this report;
- (ii) It recommends approval of the Annual Review of the Corporate Strategy, subject to any further amendments, to the Council; and
- (iii) Notes the Council's performance as set out in the Local Service Agreements 2021/2022, at Appendix D to this report.

7. COVID BUSINESS GRANT FINAL POSITION

The Panel considered a report by the Deputy Chief Executive Officer which provides an update on the COVID Business Grant Final Position.

Councillor Daniells enquired about the funding for the 2 shopping centres identified in the report and what the money was spent on. The Procurement Manager informed the Panel that the purpose of the grant was to enable the shopping centres to encourage people to continue to shop local and support these centres. Both centres had to provide full plans to the Council on how they intended to spend the money, and these proposals had to be agreed by Officers.

Councillor Birkett expressed his thanks to the teams responsible for administering the grants and acknowledged that it was a huge undertaking by these teams to achieve the positive response to this work.

RESOLVED that the Panel commented upon and noted the content of the report.

8. GENERAL FUND AND HOUSING REVENUE ACCOUNT OUTTURN 2021-2022

The Panel considered a report by the Deputy Chief Executive Officer on the General Fund and Housing Revenue Account Outturn for the financial period 2021-2022.

The Panel noted that the positive position of the Council's finances to allow funds to be transferred to reserves, rather than having to draw from them.

RESOLVED that the Policy and Resources Scrutiny Panel notes the content of the report and has no further comments to refer to the Executive at its meeting on 3 October 2022.

9. UPDATED EQUALITIES OBJECTIVES

The Panel considered a report by the Director of Leisure and Community which provides an update on the Council's Equalities Objectives.

The Panel noted the positive work undertaken by the team in managing the equalities objectives and welcomed the increase in objectives in the policy.

Members were encouraged with the emphasis on the Council promoting the diverse cultures of all groups within the Borough and ensuring that all groups' needs are taken into consideration. The Senior Policy, Research and Engagement Officer addressed the Panel to confirm that the Council's aim is to be more inclusive and to ensure that access to all of the services within the borough is available to everyone.

RESOLVED that the Policy and Resources Scrutiny Panel recommends to the Executive at its meeting on 7 November, that it endorses the proposed Equalities Objectives for 2022-2026.

10. ARRANGEMENTS FOR LIVE STREAMING OF COUNCIL MEETINGS

The Council considered a report by the Head of Democratic Services on the subject of live streaming Council and Committee meetings following a motion made to the Council in October 2021 by Councillor Forrest.

Councillor Birkett acknowledged that currently there is limited interest in the public in the live streaming of meetings but requested that the Council revisit this in 2/3 years. He acknowledged there is an increasing trend in the way that people access services and that live streaming meetings could assist the Council in its commitment to be transparent regarding its decision making.

Councillor Mrs Mandry and Councillor Daniells expressed concern over the growing hate crimes within social media and would like the Council to take this into consideration should this be reconsidered at a later date.

RESOLVED that the Policy and Resources Scrutiny Panel: -

- (i) Notes the content of the report; and
- (ii) Agrees that no further action be taken to live stream Council and Committee meetings at this time, but to keep this under review.

11. 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 11 July 2022.

(1) Budget for Work to Repair 166 Southampton Road

Councillor Birkett asked a question on this item.

(2) Consideration of the Grant of an Extension to an Existing Long Lease on Land at Southampton Road, Titchfield

There were no comments received.

(3) UK Shared Prosperity Fund

There were no comments received.

(4) Capital & Treasury Management Outturn 2021-22

There were no comments received.

(5) COVID Business Grants Final Position

There were no comments received.

(6) General Fund & Housing Revenue Account Outturn 2021-22

There were no comments received.

12. SCRUTINY PRIORITIES

The Deputy Chief Executive Officer addressed the Panel on this item and reminded members of upcoming items for future meetings.

Members were given the opportunity to put forward suggestions for any additional item of business that they would like to scrutinise, no further comments were received.

(The meeting started at 6.00 pm
and ended at 6.46 pm).