

FAREHAM

BOROUGH COUNCIL

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

Date: Monday, 17 June 2024

Venue: Collingwood Room - Civic Offices

PRESENT:

Councillor Mrs S M Bayford (Chairman)

Councillor F L Burgess (Vice-Chairman)

Councillors: S Dugan, D J Hamilton, Miss T Harper, P W Whittle and
R N Bird (deputising for Mrs K Mandry)

**Also
Present:**



1. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

An apology of absence was received from Councillor Mrs K Mandry.

2. MINUTES

RESOLVED that the minutes of the Policy and Resources Scrutiny Panel held on 22 January 2024 be confirmed and signed as a correct record.

3. CHAIRMAN'S ANNOUNCEMENTS

There were no Chairman's announcements.

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. INTRODUCTION TO POLICY AND RESOURCES PORTFOLIO

The Panel considered a report by the Assistant Chief Executive Officer which outlined the Panel's Scrutiny responsibilities, the Policy and Resources portfolio remit and highlighted the relevant priorities from the Council's Corporate Strategy 2023-2037. The report also provided members with guidance and helpful tips on how to conduct effective scrutiny.

RESOLVED that the Panel note the content of the report.

7. PRESENTATION ON THE COUNCIL'S APPROACH TO PROCUREMENT AND CONTRACT MANAGEMENT

The Panel received a presentation from the Strategic Procurement Professional on the Council's approach to procurement and contract management. (A copy of this presentation has been appended to these minutes).

The presentation was broken down into four categories, with questions taken at the end of each category;

1. Approach to Procurement and Achieving Value for Money
2. Procurement Controls and Assurances
3. Procurement Lifecycle Improvements
4. Impact on Procurement Act 2023

Members asked a variety of questions of officers following presentation. It was noted that the workload for the procurement team is high and members asked how this is resourced especially during busier times due to the procurement team being a small team. The Strategic Procurement Professional advised that the team remain constantly aware of upcoming projects and ensure that they

engage with service areas early to ensure that the work is completed within the prescribed timescale. He also advised that service areas may need to reallocate staff at times to assist with procurement projects where they are complex and time intensive.

Members also enquired as to whether the opportunities plan work had any impact on procurement, and whether it was worth undertaking this review again. The Assistant Director (Finance and ICT) addressed the Panel on this item and advised that the original plan was only for two years and whilst it has had a positive impact it is not something that can be measured in terms of procurement. She did advise that there is a lot of value in undertaking this exercise again and this will be considered at a later date.

RESOLVED that the Panel noted the content of the report.

8. PRESENTATION ON THE COUNCIL'S POLICY FOR THE REGULATION OF INVESTIGATORY POWERS (RIPA)

The Panel received a presentation from the Assistant Director (Finance and ICT) on the Council's policy for the Regulation of Investigatory Powers (RIPA). (A copy of this presentation has been appended to these minutes).

Members were keen to note positively that the use of these powers is very rare.

A question was raised in respect of the very low usage of surveillance to establish if someone was living at a property or not, and whether this means that we do not investigate many of these cases. The Assistant Director (Finance and ICT) addressed the Panel to confirm that there are various channels available to report suspicions of fraud. These are assessed and cases prioritised for full investigation. There is an array of investigation techniques used to establish the truth of the case and surveillance is just one of these used in higher value cases where there is a high likelihood of legal proceedings being taken.

RESOLVED that the Panel note the content of the report.

9. 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 22 January 2024.

(1) Citizen of Honour Nominations 2024

There were no comments received.

(2) Daedalus Vision and Outline Strategy - 2024 Update - Progress and Next Steps

Councillor Hamilton enquired as to when the airside activities would become sustainable. The Daedalus Programme Lead (Airside) addressed the Panel on this item and confirmed that due to binding restrictive covenants we are

obliged to operate an airfield which can be a benefit to the non-airside activities (such as land sales and leases). This means that the site should be viewed as a whole.

(3) Electric Vehicle Charging Tariff for Osborn Road Car Park

There were no comments received.

(4) Finance Strategy, Capital Programme, Revenue Budget and Council Tax 2024-25

There were no comments received.

(5) Housing Revenue Account 2024-25

There were no comments received.

(6) Irrecoverable Debts

There were comments received.

(7) Renewable Energy Scheme - Hook Recreation Ground Solar Photovoltaic (PV) Development Feasibility

There were no comments received.

(8) Solent Enterprise Zone - Retained Business Rates and Infrastructure Investment Plan

There were no comments received.

(9) Town Centre Regeneration Strategy and Action Plans - Options

There were no comments received.

(10) Treasury Management Strategy 2024-25

There were no comments received.

(11) Updated Complaints Policy

There were no comments received.

(12) CONFIDENTIAL - Local Nutrient Mitigation Fund - Land Acquisition

There were no comments received.

(13) CONFIDENTIAL - Sale of Land Parcel at Faraday Business Park, Daedalus

There were no comments received.

10. SCRUTINY PRIORITIES

The Panel considered the Policy and Resources Scrutiny Panel priorities for 2024/25 and were given the opportunity to put forward any further items they would like to consider during this municipal year.

Councillor Whittle requested an item on the Daedalus Vision but was informed that this would be an item that would go to the Daedalus Scrutiny Panel as it falls under their remit.

He also requested that the unallocated item on the Town Centre Regeneration be added to a meeting date in this municipal year. Officers advised that they are unable to confirm a meeting date for this item at present as it is still unknown as to when this will be ready for pre-scrutiny. However, it was agreed that officers would speak to the service area concerned and make the request known.

(The meeting started at 6.00 pm
and ended at 8.02 pm).

..... Chairman

..... Date