

SCRUTINY COMMITTEE

18 NOVEMBER 2015

PRESENT

Councillor J. Coupe (in the Chair)

Councillors M. Cordingley (Vice-Chairman), S.K. Anstee, R. Bowker, C. Boyes, C. Candish, K. Carter, Mrs P. Dixon, D. Hopps, D. Western and J. Lloyd (ex-Officio)

Also Present

Ms Tora Rushby (Co-Opted Member)

In attendance

Cllr S. Anstee	- Leader of the Council
Cllr Mrs L. Evans	- Executive Member for Transformation & Resources
Cllr J. Lamb	- Executive Member for Communities & Partnerships
Joanne Hyde	- Acting Corporate Director Transformation and Resources
Ian Duncan	- Director of Finance
Richard Roe	- Director of Growth and Regulatory Services
Chris Hindle	- Contracts Director
Peter Forrester	- Democratic and Performance Services Manager
Chris Gaffey	- Democratic and Scrutiny Officer

APOLOGIES

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors L. Dagnall

16. MINUTES

RESOLVED: That the Minutes of the meeting held on 1 October 2015 be agreed as a correct record and signed by the Chairman.

17. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

No declarations of interests were made by Members.

18. ANNUAL DELIVERY PLAN 2015/16 - SECOND QUARTER PERFORMANCE REPORT

The Committee received a report of the Executive Member for Transformation and Resources providing a summary of performance against the Council's Annual Delivery Plan, 2015/16, covering the period 1 June 2015 to 30 September 2015.

Members were in agreement that the report's new format was improved and clearer. It was noted that the Health Scrutiny Committee were currently investigating the below target performance on delayed transfers of care. The Executive Member for Transformation and Resources confirmed she would look into the suggestion that members of the public were experiencing longer than expected wait times for health checks.

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The Director of Finance highlighted an error on page 13 of the agenda. The Q2 target for Council Tax revenue collected was incorrectly shown as 56.62%. The actual target was 58.58%.

RESOLVED: That the report be noted.

19. UPDATE ON IMPACT OF ICT AND FINANCE BUDGET SAVINGS

The Committee received a report of the Corporate Director for Transformation and Resources and the Executive Member for Transformation and Resources. The report updated Members on the management and impact of the service reorganisations of Finance and ICT services as part of the 2015/16 budget proposals.

Members welcomed the report and requested that their appreciation be fed back to the Finance Team for all their efforts.

RESOLVED: That the report be noted.

20. SAFER TRAFFORD PARTNERSHIP UPDATE

The Committee received a report of the Corporate Director Transformation and Resources and the Executive Member for Communities and Partnerships detailing the work of the Safer Trafford Partnership, including information on performance, the Trafford Crime Strategy, tackling anti-social behaviour and other key strategic programmes of work.

The overall declining trend in anti-social behaviour was noted. Members requested historic Trafford data as well as AGMA data for 'crimes per 1000 residents', which the Executive Member for Communities and Partnerships agreed to provide.

RESOLVED: That the report be noted.

21. BUDGET PROPOSALS - PRESENTATION

The Committee received a presentation of the Leader of the Council providing an overview of the 2016/17 budget proposals. The presentation provided detail on the six themes focused on in the proposals: Buying Better; Working Smarter; Eligibility and Access; Joined Up and Working Together; Promoting Independence; and Maximising Income.

Arrangements for the Budget Scrutiny sessions were confirmed where Members could have focused discussions around the proposals.

RESOLVED: That the presentation be noted.

22. LOCAL GOVERNMENT OMBUDSMAN ACTIVITY FOR 2014/15

The Committee received a report of the Director of Legal and Democratic Services. The report aimed to update Members on the complaints made to the

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Local Government Ombudsman (LGO) against Trafford Council in the year ending 31 March 2015.

The Democratic and Performance Services Manager advised that the report was brought to the Committee for information purposes. It was explained that as the reports developed and progressed they would become more detailed. The aim would be to bring further reports to the Committee, possibly biannually.

RESOLVED: That the report be noted.

23. TOWN CENTRES - UPDATE ON ACTIVITY, ACHIEVEMENTS TO DATE AND FUTURE WORK PROGRAMME

The Committee received a report of the Executive Member for Economic Growth and Planning providing an update on town centre activity in Altrincham, Sale, Stretford, Urmston and Partington.

Referring to Altair (page 72 of the agenda), it was confirmed that the intention was for the mixed-use leisure and residential scheme to include a leisure centre. Plans for Sale were at an early stage, but certainty about the future of Sale Square was required before a 'master plan' could be created. It was noted that Sale was not in the same position as Altrincham and Stretford in relation to public realm funding, however town centre loans had been considered.

The Director of Growth and Regulatory Services agreed to provide Members with evidence of the environmental works that had taken place in Partington.

Discussions were had about how good practice in reducing shop vacancies could be shared between centres, and Members reminded the Committee how non-town centre areas should not be forgotten.

RESOLVED: That the report be noted.

24. UPDATE ON THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE COMMUNITY ASSET FRAMEWORK

The Committee received a report of the Executive Member for Economic Growth and Planning summarising the work carried out to date on the implementation of the Community Asset Framework.

It was confirmed that Amey were in charge of managing the process of the Council's asset transfers. The transfer of Stretford Public Hall was due to be completed this week.

A correction was made to appendix 1 of the report in that Walton Park Leisure Centre was now Walton Park Sports Centre.

RESOLVED: That the report be noted.

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25. SCRUTINY COMMITTEE WORK PROGRAMME 2015/16 - UPDATE

The Committee received a report of the Democratic and Performance Services Manager setting out the updated work programme for the 2015/16 municipal year.

The Committee was reminded that the Budget Scrutiny sessions would be held on 2 December and 8 December. Members were urged to submit any questions they would like to be answered at these sessions to Democratic Services, who would pass these on to the Executive.

It was noted that work had begun on the 'Closing the Gap' Task and Finish Group.

RESOLVED: That the report be noted.

The meeting commenced at 6.30 pm and finished at 7.55 pm