

MINUTES OF: OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY COMMITTEE

Date of Meeting: 11th November 2024

Present: Councillors Neal (Vice Chair), Ashworth, Kenyon (subbing for Belli), Harrison, McMahon, Smith and Co-opted member Heaton

In attendance: Clare Law, Head of People and Policy
David Smurthwaite, Director of Economic Development
Hannah Callan, Executive and Democratic Services Officer

Also Present: Councillor Lythgoe, Carolyn Sharples

1. Apologies for Absence

Apologies have been received by Councillor Barnes and Councillor Belli.

2. Minutes

At the previous meeting detail on the additional savings included in the budget and Medium Term Financial Strategy was requested in relation to Risk 1. An update was requested and it was agreed to refer the request back to the relevant officer and for details to be circulated to members.

Resolved:

That the minutes of the meeting on 9th September 2024 be approved as a correct record.

3. Declarations of Interest

There were no declarations of interest.

4. Urgent Items of Business

There were no urgent items of business.

5. Question Time

There were no public questions.

6. Chair's Update

Following review at the last meeting, the Local Housing Allowance Safeguarding Policy was approved at the October Cabinet meeting. The supplementary planning documents reviewed at the last meeting have been out for consultation and will be going to Cabinet in November for consideration. These relate to; Affordable Housing SPD (Supplementary Planning Document) and Open Space and Outdoor Sports SPD.

Also, at the last meeting, questions were asked regarding the Open Space and Outdoor Sports SPD. It has been confirmed that:

The Playing Pitch Calculator (PPC) helps local authorities estimate the demand that may be generated for the use of playing pitches by a new population. The Playing Pitch Calculator requires data to be entered from the Borough's local assessment of need (identified through the Playing Pitch needs assessments) to generate results.

The Sports Facility Calculator (SFC) can also help quantify the additional demand for key community sports facilities. It's designed to estimate the demand for sports facilities created by a new community as part of a residential development and the costs to meet new demand. The SFC uses information on who uses facilities and applies this to the population

profile of the local area. This ensures that the calculations are sensitive to the needs of the people who live there.

In relation to reinforcing accessibility into the guidance, links have been inserted into the SPD to a number of good practice design tools published by Sport England. These include links to Active Design, Making Space for Girls and Accessible and inclusive sports facilities.

In relation to the request to better reflect the nature of the pools. The Report refers to 4 pools at two sites with each having 1x 4-lane swimming pool and 1 x learner/teaching pool. This was the position at the time of writing. It is important to ensure that these studies and assessments are kept up-to-date and inform strategies. This will be fed back to the officer group looking at leisure facilities.

ORDINARY BUSINESS

7. Performance Management Report (Q1)

7.1 Members considered the Performance Management Report (Q1).

7.2 In response to questions asked by members' the following clarifications were given:

- There has been an increase in uptake of the Disability Fund Grant (DFG), last year there was 126 applications and these are now going through the relevant process.
- There was a refresh of the DFG policy last year.
- Another member of staff has recently been recruited who will focus on the minor adaptations.

Resolved:

The committee noted the Council's performance as detailed in the report.

8. Forward Plan

8.1 Members were updated on the Forward Plan and Overview and Scrutiny Work Programme. Members were encouraged to submit their questions in advance in relation to items on the next agenda and suggest services to attend future meetings in relation to the performance report which would be distributed when it had been published for Cabinet.

Resolved:

The Forward Plan and Overview and Scrutiny Work Programme items were noted.

(The meeting commenced at 6.30pm and concluded at 7:10pm)

Signed.....
(Chair)

Date