

**MINUTES** of a meeting of the **IMPROVEMENT AND SCRUTINY COMMITTEE – RESOURCES** held at County Hall, Matlock on 5 December 2019.

**PRESENT**

Councillor T A Kemp (in the Chair)

Councillors N Barker, B Bingham, J Boulton, C Moesby, J Twigg, and G Wharmby.

Apologies for absence were received from Councillor M Wall.

**27/19** **MINUTES RESOLVED** that the minutes of the meeting of the Improvement and Scrutiny Committee – Resources held on 19 September 2019 be confirmed as a correct record and signed by the Chairman.

**28/19** **PUBLIC QUESTIONS** There were no public questions.

**29/19** **STAFF MENTAL HEALTH AND WELLBEING INITIATIVES**  
James Creaghan, Public Health Lead for Mental Health provided members with an update on the progress that had been made towards the recommendations in the scrutiny review of initiatives to support staff wellbeing and good mental health.

The Committee had conducted a review of initiatives to support staff wellbeing and good mental health, and submitted the final report to Cabinet on 9 May 2019. The report recommended that the Health and Wellbeing Strategy Implementation Group develop an implementation plan specifically for mental health and that, following on from this, a Mental Health Steering Group should be established to oversee its sustained delivery. The report also recommended that the benefits and feasibility of a series of initiatives (outlined by the Public Health Lead for Mental Health at a working group meeting in February 2019) be explored.

Appendix A to the report set out the progress that had been made towards delivering (or assessing the feasibility of) the initiatives specified in the scrutiny review.

Members were given the opportunity to make comments or ask questions which were duly noted or answered.

**RESOLVED** (1) to note the progress made towards implementing the recommendations, made by this Committee, in the review of initiatives to support staff wellbeing and good mental health;

(2) that following the recent consultation on developing a DCC Mental Health Policy, the outcomes be circulated to members prior to its approval at the ACOS Committee in February 2020; and

(3) to recommend that the Member Development Working Group be asked to look at a bespoke mental health training event for all elected Members.

**30/19 DELIVERING THE CLIMATE AND CARBON REDUCTION MANIFESTO** It was noted that on 21 November, Cabinet had approved the Council's draft Carbon Reduction Plan and the updated Corporate Environment Policy which supported the delivery of the Council's Climate and Carbon Reduction Manifesto;

D Ludlam, Policy Officer, DCC attended the meeting and gave a brief presentation on tackling climate change in Derbyshire

Details were given of the changing global temperature, along with the 2100 warming projections in relation to emissions and expected warming based on pledges and current policies.

Actual and projected emissions from DCC estate and operations were also provided.

In terms of the way forward it was felt that there must be widespread engagement of local communities, business & commerce, the education sector and other public organisations. There was a climate summit planned for March 2020.

Members were given the opportunity to make comments or ask questions which were duly noted or answered.

The general consensus was that there needed to be a new area of collaboration between DCC, Derby City and all District/ Boroughs and that a united front be taken in Derbyshire as a whole with a clear need to identify what resources could be committed to support this vital area of work.

(The Chairman asked members to note, that although the Appendices to the report had been marked as restricted in error, they were publicly available)

**RESOLVED** to note the update report and that reports be brought back to committee on a regular basis.

**31/19 D2N2 LEP SCRUTINY WORKING GROUP** Members were reminded that at last meeting on 19 September 2019 it was agreed that a

working group would be established to scrutinise the activities of the D2N2 LEP. It was also agreed that the meetings would be open to the public and that scrutiny chairs from D2N2 councils would be invited to take part in the process. Subsequently, Bassetlaw District Council and Chesterfield Borough Council had indicated that they would like to be engaged in the scrutiny arrangements.

At the first meeting of the working group which took place on 2 December 2019 the focus was on “Scheme delivery” and the following witnesses had attended:

- Sajeeda Rose, Chief Executive, D2N2 LEP
- Tom Goshawk, Head of Capital Programmes, D2N2 LEP
- Sarah Wainwright, Senior Accountant, Accountable Body

Following this first meeting (and subsequent meetings) a progress report would be presented to the next available meeting of the full Committee.

**RESOLVED** to note the establishment of the LEP Scrutiny Working Group.

**32/19**      **REGULAR COMMITTEE UPDATE ON THE FINANCIAL AND BUDGETARY POSITION** Peter Handford, Director of Finance and ICT attended the meeting to provide an update on the financial position. The following items were highlighted:

The full Audit Certificate in relation to the completion of accounts for 2018/19 had now been received.

In relation to 2019/20 spend, all portfolios were showing an underspend with the exception of Children’s Services which had a projected overspend of £7m at the end of this financial year.

The middle of December would see the formal issue of the Financial Resilience Index, which was produced by CIPFA.

Guidance on the Financial Management Code was also expected soon from CIPFA, and would give the opportunity for the authority to compare against the code in terms of areas of good practice and where improvements could be made.

In terms of the 2021 Budget preparations, the public consultation exercise had recently closed and the results were currently being collated. The Trade Unions had also been consulted and had invited the Director of Finance to meet with them to discuss the budget in more detail.

The statutory Business Ratepayers consultation would take place early in the New Year and work was currently taking place as how best to engage with consultees.

Budget pressures were currently being identified by Departments and were currently being considered by Executive Directors. A number of emerging topics were being addressed as part of the process.

The forthcoming general election had meant that a number of key announcements had been delayed, with the fine detail on the spending review announced in September now not expected until the New Year.

It was noted however, that everything was on track to meet the required deadlines with the budget being considered at Cabinet on 23 January with formal approval at Council on 3 February 2020.

Members were given the opportunity to make comments or ask questions which were duly noted or answered.

The Chairman thanked Mr Handford for his update.

**RESOLVED** to note the update on the financial and budgetary positions.