

MINUTES of a meeting of the **IMPROVEMENT AND SCRUTINY COMMITTEE – RESOURCES** held at County Hall, Matlock on 5 March 2020.

PRESENT

Councillor T A Kemp (in the Chair)

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

01/20 **MINUTES RESOLVED** that the minutes of the meeting of the Improvement and Scrutiny Committee – Resources held on 5 December 2019 be confirmed as a correct record and signed by the Chairman.

02/20 **PUBLIC QUESTIONS** There were no public questions.

03/20 **CORPORATE ENVIRONMENT POLICY AND CARBON REDUCTION PLAN WITH RESPECT TO PROPERTY SERVICES** The Committee was asked to consider the Council property related elements of the Carbon Reduction Plan.

On 5 December 2019 this Committee received a presentation from Denise Ludlam (The Council's Climate Change Officer) entitled Delivering the Climate and Carbon Reduction Manifesto. The presentation described the Derbyshire Environment and Climate Change Framework, which set out the approach the Council and district and borough councils will take to tackle the broader climate change agenda. The presentation also introduced the recently developed Carbon Reduction Plan which aimed to reduce greenhouse gas emissions from the Council's own estate and operations. A copy of the Carbon Reduction Plan and the revised Corporate Environment Policy that was approved by Cabinet, on 21 November 2019, and was attached at Appendix 1 to the report.

Kathryn Sowerby-Warrington (Carbon & Energy Manager) attended the meeting and presented in more detail the Property Services elements of the Carbon Reduction Plan. She also fed back to Members, the lessons learned from the "Tackling Climate Change Together" event that had taken place at County Hall on 3 March 2020.

A number of Potential areas for inclusion in the Improvement and Scrutiny - Resources 2020-21 Work Programme were discussed: including

- Rationalisation
- Employee engagement

- Energy efficiency
- Renewables
 - Council owned land
 - Out of county e.g Warrington Borough Council
 - Develop or lease land
- Purchasing of renewable energy
 - Renewable Energy Guarantees of Origin (REGO)
 - Power Purchase Agreements (PPA)
- Land assets
 - Natural capital
 - Low carbon developments e.g. housing
- Geo Thermal
- Minerals and Aggregates Industry

Members made a number of comments and asked questions which were duly noted or answered.

Following discussion a number of topics were suggested for potential inclusion in the Committee’s Work Programme

The Chairman thanked Kathryn for her update.

RESOLVED (1) to note the Council property related elements of the Carbon Reduction Plan and the feedback on the “Tackling Climate Change Together” event ; and

(2) that the Chairman would liaise with the relevant officers to prepare a draft work programme for consideration at the next meeting of the Committee.

04/20 D2N2 LEP SCRUTINY WORKING GROUP – PROGRESS REPORT

Members were informed of the progress made by the working group established to scrutinise the activities of the D2N2 Local Enterprise Partnership (LEP).

This was the first progress report regarding the working group established, in September 2019, to scrutinise the activities of the D2N2 LEP. The working group was made up of Members from this Committee and a representative from each of the following councils: Bassetlaw District Council, Chesterfield Borough Council and Nottingham City Council.

At the first meeting of the working group (2 December 2019) evidence was received from Sajeeda Rose (Chief Executive, D2N2 LEP), Tom Goshawk (Head of Capital Programmes, D2N2 LEP), Natalie Gasson (Operations Manager D2N2 LEP) and Sarah Wainwright (Senior Accountant,

Accountable Body). The focus of the meeting was on the measures that had been put in place to improve programme delivery since the LEP received the rating of “Requires improvement” for “Delivery” in the 2019 Annual Performance Review. Members were briefed on the LEP’s structure and governance arrangements before engaging in a question and answer session on risk management, project re-profiling and performance of the Local Growth Fund Programme.

The working group met again on 18 February to discuss the work programme, agree the approach for future challenge meetings and to begin the work of identifying lines of enquiry. It was agreed that the working group would meet again after the end of the financial year and after quarter 2. It was also agreed that the meetings would be structured around, but not restricted to, the LGF reports submitted to the Investment Board (namely, LGF Programme Performance Overview, LGF Budget, Output Performance Update, D2N2 Milestones).

RESOLVED to notes the progress report.

05/20 **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 Budget and 5 year plan had recently been approved
- Financial Year end was approaching and the completion of accounts were underway
- The 5 year plan would present a balance budget for the next 3 years with further reductions likely to be required for years 4&5. The position remained good
- There remained many areas of funding uncertainty in relation to the Comprehensive Spending Assessment; Social Care funding, Funding for Highways repairs following the floods; Fair funding Review and Business Rates retention.
- Next weeks Budget announcement was awaited

Members made a number of comments and asked questions which were duly noted or answered.

Particular reference was made to the potential financial implications for the authority in the wake of the Corona virus outbreak. Mr Handford confirmed that there would inevitably be implications, if the virus spread in terms of both resources and staffing, which may affect the authority’s ability to deliver frontline services. However the authority was alert to the threat and would act accordingly as and when required.

The Chairman thanked Mr Handford for his update.

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