

Minutes

OF A MEETING OF THE

Scrutiny Committee

HELD ON MONDAY 20 SEPTEMBER 2021 AT 6.00 PM

135 EASTERN AVENUE, MILTON PARK, OX14 4SB

The meeting was live streamed here: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=QsaVU-Lw31s>

Present:

Mocky Khan (Chair), Anna Badcock, David Bartholomew, Sam Casey-Rerhaye, Stefan Gawrysiak, Victoria Haval, Alexandrine Kantor, Jane Murphy and David Turner

Officers:

Harry Barrington-Mountford, Ben Coleman, Pat Connell, Simon Hewings, Suzanne Malcolm, Catrin Mathias, Candida Mckelvey and Adrianna Partridge.

Also present:

Cabinet members: Councillors Sue Cooper, Andrea Powell and Leigh Rawlins

AGENDA ITEMS

1 Apologies for absence

Councillors George Levy and Ian White sent their apologies. Councillors Victoria Haval and Jane Murphy were in attendance, as the respective substitute members.

Councillor Mocky Khan, vice chair, chaired the meeting in Councillor White's absence.

2 Declarations of interest

None.

3 Urgent business and chair's announcements

The Chair announced that the confidential items were being reordered to make the best use of officer time, with item 10 on the agenda being moved to item 9. The office accommodation item became item 9, to be reviewed first, followed by inter authority agreement as item 10, then the revised capital programme as item 11.



Listening Learning Leading

4 Minutes

One amendment was to be made to the minutes of 1 March 2021 - a section of paragraph 95 (on page 11 of the pack). A sentence regarding the work of the task and finish group did not make sense. Deletion of the following was requested, "Ideally, a retrofit officer would be in place. Work with Cosy Homes was also underway". This amendment request was seconded and the committee agreed. Once amended, these minutes will be republished as an approved version.

Resolved:

The minutes of the meetings held on 9 February 2021 and 1 March 2021 were agreed as a correct record, with the alteration stated above and by the Chair.

5 Public participation

None.

6 Work schedule and dates for all South scrutiny meetings

Committee members were reminded that they had opportunity to make any updates or changes.

The Chair asked officers to keep him updated on any changes to the timings of reports coming to the meetings. It was noted that the programme was constantly under review with senior management team and updated by democratic services. Reports coming into the October and November meetings were currently on track.

Resolved:

The October work programme was noted.

7 Q1 2021/22 performance management report

The committee reviewed the Q1 performance management report, introduced by Cabinet member, Councillor Andrea Powell. Harry Barrington-Mountford was present as reporting officer to answer questions.

The Cabinet member explained that as monitoring continued, the reports will be a management tool in order to improve and add more quantitative KPI's as time goes on.

She encouraged councillors to respond with ideas for KPI's. Which can be used to challenge the findings and make improvements.

The Cabinet member clarified that the timeliness of reporting will improve, with an aim of 6 weeks after a quarter end date, she explained that the current report was later than expected which was in part due to staff leave and the meeting cycles, with less meetings happening over summer.

Councillors highlighted a need for financial measures, constraints and specifics. The Cabinet Member responded that it was hoped to link reporting to budget updates.

Member expressed the view that it was good to see that the diversity and inclusion strategy was in progress. Broadband was a concern for some, and it was important not to stall on improvements. It was noted that Councillor Simpson would share information on her current work in this area when she had answers back. On the subject of littering, the number of PCNs was challenged on the basis that the figure seemed too low. The issue of Cycle paths was discussed, including the importance of creating a linked network, poor public transport in rural areas means reliance of private vehicles. There was discussion around the difficulty of improving an already good recycling rate.

Committee asked that Cabinet members for each strand of the Corporate Plan priorities be present for these items in order to get immediate answers to questions.

Resolved:

That committee noted the report and had provided comments to the Cabinet member.

8 Exclusion of the public

Resolved:

The committee voted in favour of excluding the public, in order to consider three confidential reports.

9 Office accommodation

(Previously item 10 on the agenda)

The committee considered a report on office accommodation from the Deputy Chief Executive –Transformation and Operations

Resolved:

The committee noted and agreed with the recommendations in the confidential report and provided comments to Cabinet.

10 Inter authority agreement

(Previously item 9 on the agenda)

The committee considered a report on inter authority agreement, led by Deputy Chief Executive for Place. The Deputy Chief Executive –Transformation and Operations left the meeting at this item.

Resolved:

The committee noted and agreed with the recommendations in the confidential report and provided comments to Cabinet.

11 Revised capital programme

Resolved:

Due to the meeting time guillotine set out in Standing Orders about to expire, the committee deferred the review of the revised capital programme report from the Head of Finance.

The meeting closed at 8.55 pm

Chairman

Date

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