



**MINUTES of  
OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY COMMITTEE  
5 MARCH 2020**

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**PRESENT**

Chairman	Councillor M W Helm
Vice-Chairman	Councillor R P F Dewick
Councillors	V J Bell, Mrs J L Fleming, M S Heard, C P Morley, S P Nunn and R H Siddall
In attendance	Councillor E L Bamford, C Morris, C Swain and W Stamp

**1. CHAIRMAN'S NOTICES**

The Chairman drew attention to the list of notices published on the back of the agenda.

**2. MINUTES OF THE LAST MEETING**

**RESOLVED** that the Minutes of the meeting of the Committee held on 31 October 2019 be approved and confirmed.

**3. PUBLIC PARTICIPATION**

There was none.

**4. DISCLOSURE OF INTEREST**

There were none.

**5. 2019/20 PROGRAMME OF WORK**

The Committee received the report of the Director of Strategy, Performance and Governance providing an update to the Committee's programme of work for 2019 / 20 (attached as Appendix 1 to the report).

Councillor M S Heard raised concern regarding the size of the agenda for this meeting and how the last scheduled meetings of this Committee had been cancelled. He referred to a number of topics he felt the Committee should be considering and how he was planning to write a specific report in relation to them. In response to a comment, the Director of Strategy, Performance and Governance reminded Members that this was a

Member led committee and Members were able to highlight areas of scrutiny for the work programme. He advised that Officers were happy to review any areas of scrutiny raised and bring them forward. Some further discussion regarding the recent cancellation of meeting ensued.

The Committee then discussed each of the items of scrutiny as set out on the workplan, as follows:

**Conduct Complaints:**

The Director of Strategy, Performance and Governance highlighted the recommendation from Officers that this item of scrutiny be deleted in the absence of a specific area of work being identified. In response to a question regarding the number of complaints received since 2015, the Director of Strategy, Performance and Governance advised that he understood that this information had been provided to Members. The Chairman requested that Offices go back to the Monitoring Officer and ensure that the requested information was circulated. The Director explained that the information could be provided without it being an item of scrutiny. Councillor Heard advised that Members had concern regarding the records being kept and this piece of work would establish this.

Councillor S P Nunn proposed that this item of scrutiny remain on the Programme of Work until Members had received the report from the Monitoring Officer. This was agreed.

In response to concern raised regarding the number of conduct complaints requiring the Joint Standards Committee to meet this year it was agreed that benchmarking data from other Local Authorities would be sought and reported to Members to identify if there was an item for scrutiny.

**Council Accounts:**

It was noted that Officers were recommending that no further action be taken on this item of business. It was agreed that this item of scrutiny be removed from the work programme as the Performance, Governance and Audit Committee had received a report from the External Auditors regarding this matter.

In response to a question regarding the approval of revisions to the 2018 / 19 budgets it was agreed that Members would be provided with this information and any background to it.

**Monitoring of Organisation Change Programme:**

Councillor R H Siddall reported that he hoped to be working with the Director of Strategy, Performance and Governance on this matter in the next few months. It was therefore agreed to leave this item of scrutiny on the work programme.

**Provision of Car Parking – Park and Ride Schemes within the District:**

Some concern was raised regarding the Park and Ride Scheme, specifically the advertisement and promotion of the scheme both by Tesco and the Council. In response, the Director of Strategy, Performance and Governance suggested that he investigate the matter and bring a short report back to the Committee. This was agreed.

**Scrutiny of the Application of the District Council’s Commercial Strategy:**

In response to a suggestion that the council’s commercial decisions be reviewed with specific reference to Promenade Park, the Director of Strategy, Performance and Governance highlighted that a number of commercial decisions had been made by the Members through meetings of Council and the Strategy & Resources Committee. The Director requested additional details if, as suggested, a new piece of scrutiny on commercial decisions was undertaken. Councillor S P Nunn felt that Members should scrutinise decisions and referred to recent decisions relating to Maldon Yacht Club and barge mooring fees and the related views raised by the media and public.

It was further commented that the Committee should look to scrutinise the governance of the Strategy, how it was applied / operated through the Council and if there were improvements that could be made.

The Director of Service Delivery reported that within the Commercial Strategy there were a number of options available to increase / deliver targets and projects had been delivering against these. There were some questions raised by Members in respect of processes and the governance around the Commercial Strategy. In response, the Director outlined the process followed in respect of fees and charges (which related to the barge mooring fees), he then provided some detailed information in respect of Maldon Yacht Club and the ongoing governance arrangements regarding this subject. It was noted that in relation to the Promenade Park the Strategy contained a number of income opportunities and projects and Officers were exploring and delivering against these.

It was agreed that this item of scrutiny remain on the work programme.

**Working Group: Overview of Corporate Leadership Team and Leader of the Council decision making:**

In response to a question regarding the Smoke and Fire festival, Members were advised that the decision to move the location was a commercial decision from the operator and not the Council.

Councillor Nunn proposed that this item of scrutiny remain on the work programme. This was duly agreed.

**RESOLVED** that the Programme of Work be updated as detailed above.

**6. OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY COMMITTEE - THE ROLE AND WORK OF THE COMMITTEE**

The Chairman advised that there was insufficient time for the Committee to receive this presentation.

**7. ANY OTHER ITEMS OF SCRUTINY MEMBERS WISH TO CONSIDER**

Councillor V J Bell referred to a matter discussed at the October meeting of the Committee where it was agreed that in respect of Due Diligence: Capita a briefing note would be circulated to Members on this matter. She noted that the briefing note had not

been sent and in response the Chairman advised that he would arrange for it to be sent out to Members.

In response to a further question regarding additional items of scrutiny, the Chairman advised Members to email either the Director of Strategy, Performance and Governance or Corporate Governance Project Officer who would look into them accordingly.

There being no further items of business the Chairman closed the meeting at 8.14 pm.

M W HELM  
CHAIRMAN