

Executive Scrutiny Committee

A meeting of Executive Scrutiny Committee was held on Tuesday, 17th July, 2018.

Present: Cllr David Harrington (Chair),

Cllr Sonia Bailey, Cllr Louise Baldock, Cllr Derrick Brown, Cllr Carol Clark, Cllr Chris Clough, Cllr Gillian Corr, Cllr Lynn Hall, Cllr Tony Hampton, Cllr Marilyn Surtees (substitute for Cllr Norma Stephenson), Cllr Laura Tunney, Cllr Matthew Vickers, Cllr David Wilburn, Peter Snowden

Officers: Julie Danks, Michael Henderson, Peter Mennear, Judith Trainer, Gary Woods (DCEO); Garry Cummings (DFand B); Jamie McCann (DCS)

Also in attendance:

Apologies: Cllr Lisa Grainge, Cllr Jean O'Donnell, Cllr Eileen Johnson, Cllr Norma Stephenson O.B.E, Cllr Mrs Sylvia Walmsley,

ESC 8/18 **Declarations of Interest**

Cllr Derrick Brown declared a personal, non-prejudicial interest as he was a member of the Tees Active Board.

Cllr David Harrington declared a personal, non-prejudicial interest in item 5 'Medium Term Financial Plan' as the report referred to additional funding to support schools' expansion. Cllr Harrington's wife was employed at one of the schools that would receive some of the additional funding.

Cllr Gillian Corr declared a personal non-prejudicial interest in item 4 Council Plan , as there were references to Ingleby Barwick Leisure Centre.

ESC 9/18 **Minutes of the meeting held on 17 July 2018**

The minutes of the meeting held on 5 June 2018 were confirmed and signed as a correct record.

ESC 10/18 **Council Plan - Annual Report 2017-18**

Members considered the Council Plan Annual Report 2017/18.

Discussion:

- the Committee noted that the Council had introduced new fly tipping fines in the Borough to tackle the illegal dumping of waste. Members highlighted the importance of keeping ward Councillors informed of incidents and action taken. Officers indicated that they would feed members' comments back to relevant teams to ensure communication in this regard was appropriate.

- Members noted that work on the construction of the new leisure and library facility at Ingleby Barwick had started and works were currently on target.

- The Committee considered an infographic, contained within the Council Plan Annual Report, that highlighted data relating to some of the services the Council

provided. Members made a number of suggestions for inclusion in any future, similar, infographic:

- number of missed bin collections, which was exceptionally low.
 - details about recycling rates.
 - number of items borrowed from libraries, both physical and digital.
 - number of major planning applications received.
 - Economic data on SIRF, the return on investment.
 - Preston Park - attendance at events
- CCTV expenditure had been used to upgrade equipment, to improve surveillance and the quality of images. It was considered that the Council had almost reached its capacity in terms of selling its CCTV service to other organisations. The priority for the use of the CCTV was to protect the Borough's communities and infrastructure.

The Committee recognized the excellent work that had been undertaken by staff and, in particular, the work that had been undertaken during the severe weather conditions, in February. Members requested that their thanks, for all the work undertaken, be passed on to staff, via senior management and Keeping You in Touch.

RESOLVED that the Annual Report and discussion be noted and actioned as appropriate.

**ESC
11/18**

Medium Term Financial Plan Outturn - March 2018

Members considered a report that focused on the financial performance and position of the Council at the end of the 2017/18 financial year and provided an update on the Medium Term Financial Plan, as at 31 March 2018.

Discussion:

- members noted that care packages, funded by Direct Payments, were sometimes provided for less than anticipated and any surplus money was returned to the Council.
- Reference was made to a managed surplus relating to highway footpath schemes and some additional government funding that had been provided to help with potholes and flood resilience. A member highlighted issues relating

to the poor condition of some roads and pathways in west Stockton, that needed attention, and queried why there was a surplus. It was confirmed that there had been slippage on schemes and monies would be carried forward for use in 2018/19.

RESOLVED that the Medium Term Financial Plan, current level of General Fund balances and revised Capital Programme be noted.

**ESC
12/18 Children and Young People Select Committee - Scrutiny Review of Inclusion in Schools (Final Report for information)**

Members considered the final report of the Children and Young People's Select Committee's Review of Inclusion in Schools, that had recently been submitted to Cabinet.

RESOLVED that the report be noted.

**ESC
13/18 Place Select Committee - Scrutiny Review of Management of Memorials (Final Report for information)**

Members considered the final report of the Place Committee's review of the Management of Memorials, that had recently been submitted to Cabinet.

It was noted that the Select Committee had not considered the possibility of providing a free service to the families who had lost a child, as this had not been within the scope of the review. It was agreed that funeral fees be put forward as a potential scrutiny review topic for 2019/20.

It was agreed that information on fees for grave options, in Durham Road Cemetery extension, would be circulated to the Committee.

RESOLVED that;

- 1, the report be noted.
2. Funeral Fees be put forward, as a potential Scrutiny Review topic for 2019/20

**ESC
14/18 People Select Committee - Scrutiny Review of Mental Health and Wellbeing including Suicide and Self-Harm (Final Report for information)**

Members considered the final report of the People Select Committee's review of Mental Health and Wellbeing, including Suicide and Self Harm, that had recently been submitted to Cabinet.

It was noted that an action plan would be going to the Select Committee in September, followed by progress updates

It was noted that, during the review process, a number of potential learning points had been identified, that may assist future reviews. These centered on the importance of identifying the correct witnesses, scheduling sufficient meetings to hear evidence, sending links to information, rather than reproducing the documents.

RESOLVED that the report be noted.

**ESC
15/18** **Statutory Forward Plan**

Members considered the Council's Statutory Forward Plan for 1st July 2018 - 31 October 2018.

**ESC
16/18** **Select Committee Chairs Updates**

Members considered the Select Committee Chairs' Updates.

RESOLVED that the updates be noted.

**ESC
17/18** **Chair's Update and Executive Scrutiny Work Programme**

The Chair had no updates to provide at this time.

Members considered the Committee's Work Programme. In terms of the Place Select Committee's 'Parking on Grass Verges Review', members were asked to provide the Scrutiny Team with photographic evidence of problems in their wards.