

People Select Committee

A meeting of People Select Committee was held on Monday, 1st March, 2021.

Present: Cllr Marilyn Surtees (Chair), Cllr Helen Atkinson, Cllr John Gardner, Cllr Stefan Houghton, Cllr Eileen Johnson, Cllr Barry Woodhouse, Cllr Bill Woodhead MBE, Cllr Mrs Sylvia Walmsley, Cllr Norma Stephenson (sub for Mrs Jean O'Donnell).

Officers: Reuben Kench (ECL&E); Ian Miles, Gareth Aungiers (Xentrall); Beccy Brown (HR, L&C); Garry Cummings (FD&BS); Margaret Waggott, Peter Bell, Michelle Gunn, Nigel Hart, Sharon McDonald, Tonya McFarthing, Jill Patterson, Rebecca Saunders-Thompson, Sarah Whaley (MD).

Also in attendance: Cllr Bob Cook, Cllr Jim Beall, Cllr Steve Nelson.

Apologies: Mrs Jean O'Donnell (Vice Chair)

PEO 29/20 **Declarations of Interest**

Cllr Jim Beall declared a personal, non-prejudicial interest in item 4, as a trustee of the Spence Collection.

PEO 30/20 **Minutes of the meeting held on 25 January 2021**

Consideration was given to the minutes from the meeting held on 25 January 2021.

AGREED that the minutes be approved as a correct record and signed by the Chair.

PEO 31/20 **Overview Reports 2021**

Members were presented with overview reports from the following directorates:

- The Environment, Culture, Leisure and Events
- Xentrall Shared Services
- HR, Legal and Communications
- Finance, Development and Business Services
- Administration, Democratic and Electoral Services

All the overview reports reflected on the challenges and opportunities and the priorities for the year ahead.

The main issues from the overview report for The Environment, Culture, Leisure and Events were as follows:

- Members welcomed the new Business and Intellectual Property Centre. Members were informed that most of the information would be accessible online, however, attempts would be made to make advice and guidance available across the Borough.
- Members questioned when work on the public toilets in Preston Park would begin. Members were informed that although an exact date had not been confirmed, work should commence within weeks. This would be a short-term improvement but there were also hopes for a long-term renovation to make these toilets more accessible. This was dependent on funding.
- The significance of the Spence Collection at Preston Park Museum was noted, and Members were enthused about the prospect of the collection receiving wider recognition and funding.

- Members thanked the teams for their work during the pandemic

The main issues from the overview report for Xentrall Shared Services were as follows:

- Members commended IT staff for their support throughout the pandemic, for rapid responses to issues with equipment, and for providing necessary information.

The main issues from the overview report for HR, Legal and Communications were as follows:

- Members commented on the number of younger staff who were not members of the pension scheme and stressed the importance of paying into a pension scheme.
- Members thanked the teams for their continual assistance in providing up to date information to residents, Members, and staff, and for effectively communicating key information from central government across platforms.

The main issues from the overview report for Finance, Development and Business Services were as follows:

- Members recognised the spending reductions from central government and thanked staff for their ongoing support to residents and businesses during the pandemic. Members thanked staff for ensuring that the most vulnerable residents were supported.

The main issues from the overview report for Administration, Democratic and Electoral Services were as follows:

- Members thanked the teams for providing support to Members throughout the pandemic.
- Members highlighted the issue of producing official ID at polling stations in the future.

AGREED that:

- 1) The reports be noted.

**PEO
32/20** **Work Programme 2020-21**

Consideration was given to Work Programme.

The next meeting of the People Select Committee would take place on 29 March 2021. The action plan for the Scrutiny Review of Public Consultation and the progress update for the Scrutiny Review of SWiS: Accommodation and Buildings (T&F) would both be presented at this meeting.

AGREED that the Work Programme be noted.

**PEO
33/20** **Chair's Update**

The Chair had nothing to update.

