

## **EPHING FOREST DISTRICT COUNCIL OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY MINUTES**

<b>Committee:</b>	Overview and Scrutiny Committee	<b>Date:</b>	Tuesday, 18 July 2017
<b>Place:</b>	Council Chamber, Civic Offices, High Street, Epping	<b>Time:</b>	9.05 - 9.41 pm
<b>Members Present:</b>	Councillors M Sartin (Chairman) R Brookes (Vice-Chairman) R Baldwin, R Bassett, N Bedford, K Chana, S Heap, L Hughes, S Kane, J Lea, A Patel, B Surtees, H Whitbread and D Wixley		
<b>Other Councillors:</b>	Councillors H Kane, A Lion, G Mohindra, S Stavrou, C Whitbread, A Grigg and J Philip		
<b>Apologies:</b>	Councillors N Avey, Y Knight, A Mitchell, S Murray, S Neville and D Stallan		
<b>Officers Present:</b>	D Macnab (Deputy Chief Executive and Director of Neighbourhoods), D Bailey (Head of Transformation), A Hendry (Senior Democratic Services Officer) and S Mitchell (PR Website Editor)		

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### **17. WEBCASTING INTRODUCTION**

The Chairman reminded everyone present that the meeting would be broadcast live to the Internet, and that the Council had adopted a protocol for the webcasting of its meetings.

### **18. SUBSTITUTE MEMBERS**

It was reported that Councillor Hughes was substituting for Councillor Knight; Councillor Chana was substituting for Councillor Avey; Councillor Lea was substituting for Councillor Mitchell; Councillor Bassett was substituting for Councillor Stallan; and that Councillor Heap was substituting for Councillor Neville.

### **19. MINUTES**

#### **RESOLVED:**

That the minutes of the last Committee meeting held on 6 June 2017 be signed by the Chairman as a correct record.

### **20. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

There were no declarations of interest made pursuant to the Member's Code of Conduct.

### **21. PUBLIC QUESTIONS & REQUESTS TO ADDRESS THE OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY COMMITTEE**

It was noted that there were no public questions or requests to address the committee.

**22. EXECUTIVE DECISIONS - CALL-IN**

There were no call-in of decisions to be considered.

**23. FORWARD PLAN OF KEY DECISIONS - REVIEW**

The Committee considered the Council's corporate priorities and programme of key decisions for 2017/18. The committee went through the plan page by page asking questions as appropriate.

Councillor Surtees noted the item for the Safer, Greener and Transport Portfolio Holder on providing new car parking provision in the Vere Road car park. He noted that his ward also needed a car parking scheme and asked if there were any consultations going on and was on street parking also being looked at. Councillor Chris Whitbread noted that not all parking schemes were our responsibility, most were for the County. He noted that we had achieved a lot on parking and had spent a lot on consultation over the year.

The Chairman concluded that this was something that needed to be looked at further.

**24. CORPORATE PLAN 2018-2023**

The Head of Transformation, Mr D Bailey, introduced the report on the Corporate Plan for 2018 – 2023. This new Corporate Plan would run from 2018 to 2023 and sought to lay out the journey the Council would take to transform the organisation to be 'ready for the future'. This plan strived to link the key external drivers influencing Council services, with a set of corporate aims and objectives, grouped under three corporate ambitions.

The Corporate Plan was the Council's highest level strategic document. It set the strategic direction of the organisation for the lifetime of the plan, and as such informed all other plans produced by the Council. The Corporate Plan did not cover everything that the organisation did in detail, but it provided a framework to demonstrate how the work of the Council at a strategic level fitted together. It also provided a focus to establish a set of corporate priorities, describing how the organisation would deliver positive change. The Corporate Plan did not contain specific information on the wide range of services that the Council provided, or how it delivered statutory duties or enforced legislation.

The new Corporate Plan aspired to be written in language and presented in a style that could be readily understood by the Council's customers. It also strived to 'put the customer at the heart of everything we do'. For the purposes of this Plan, 'customers' meant people that:

- Live (residents);
- Work or do business;
- Learn (students);
- Visit (tourist economy) and
- Play (leisure activities) in the district.

The final Corporate Plan document will include many of the sections found in the organisation's previous Corporate Plans, including an overview of the district, our vision, purpose, values, and a set of corporate aims and objectives. The most significant change to the plan was its focus on our customers and the measurement of success as the impact that the delivery of the plan had on them.

An annual Corporate Specification details how the Corporate Plan would be delivered through a set of operational objectives for that year. Corporate Specifications would continue to be set annually. Every year during the lifetime of the Corporate Plan, the Corporate Specification will be agreed by the Cabinet, with the scrutiny of the Select Committees. New operational objectives will reflect the progress already achieved against the Corporate Plan.

The benefits maps were broken into three themes, people, place and council and were to be, unusually, assessed from right to the left. Best practice was to start from the right-hand side and work towards the left, i.e. start with the needs of our customers or the end in mind, and work back to the solutions on the left-hand side. When the organisation delivers services, it starts on the left-hand side and works over to the right, i.e. the delivery goes from left to right.

Next year the maps will carry traffic lights in the boxes in the plan, to indicate how they were performing.

Councillor S Kane was impressed with the new presentation given by the report. He asked if the intention was to use these measures to augment or replace the existing KPIs. Also, were these indicative measures to be expanded at a later time or have they been set. Mr Bailey said that the KPIs in the report were to replace the existing set as we have had them for some years. We wanted to measure things important to our organisation and our customers rather than what was easy to measure. This was an attempt to flesh out what to measure indicatively and upon consultation the measures would change and improve.

Councillor Bassett would like something on partner dependencies on page 47; and protecting people from abuse or neglect, if we do not have any control over this then we would be criticizing ourselves for not delivering.

Councillor Bedford asked if there should be a section on Highways and working in partnership with them and monitoring progress.

Councillor Surtees was looking at adults and children supported in time of need and protecting people from abuse or neglect and the safeguarding issues being the performance measure. There were a lot of other things that affected supporting people in times of need and there somehow needed something to draw these together to have a really effective measure of what we do to support people in our communities.

Councillor Wixley wondered if officers could elaborate on the 'dis-benefits' mentioned in paragraph 19 of the report. Mr Bailey said that there was only one dis-benefit that had been drawn out in this document, under the stronger council benefits map; item B3.3.5, on reduced staff morale from disruption. This was an example of a potential dis-benefit and we acknowledge that this would be something to manage in order to minimise that potential dis-benefit.

Councillor Wixley said he was thinking about the residents, something like the Local Plan may cause quality of life issues and have a negative effect and cause 'dis-benefits'. Councillor Whitbread said they would look at the Local Plan in detail, but also remember there were young people who had dis-benefits by not being able to buy homes in the district and the missed out social housing in Loughton that have had planning applications turned down. All this is customer focused and we know there were a number of issues to be addressed.

Councillor Philip said that there would be bigger dis-benefits for not having a Local Plan; we needed a Local Plan otherwise any open space in the district would be fair game for developers. It may be that a small loss of open space would be less of a dis-benefit than the loss of a larger open space. Therefore it was a balance overall looking at this as a whole district.

Councillor Lion, looking at paragraph 5 of the report, asked if we had considered “growing old” in Epping Forest. Mr Macnab noted that under communities there was a strong thread about people increasing the quality of life for older people etc. so it had been picked up but could be looked at in more depth.

Councillor Patel noted that under ‘stronger council’ to implement new ways of working (3.4.2); new ways of working were only beneficial if they were to be efficient for the council, so the word ‘efficient’ needed to be in there.

Councillor Sartin noted that the committee had done all they could in providing comment on this corporate plan. It would be going to two other select committees for further comment. Mr Bailey confirmed that he would be taking into consideration all the comments made when next reviewing the Corporate Plan.

#### **RESOLVED:**

That the Committee considered and provided comment on the Council’s proposed new Corporate Plan for 2018-2023.

## **25. SCRUTINY OF EXTERNAL ORGANISATIONS**

### Barts Health NHS Trust

Mr Macnab the Director of Neighbourhoods introduced the report on future scrutiny of external organisations. He noted that the Barts Health NHS Trust had agreed to attend the 31<sup>st</sup> October meeting and talk about their improvement plan.

### Transport for London

Councillor Sartin noted that we had asked Transport for London (TfL) for a return visit and asked the committee to consider what they would like to be covered on their return visit. One of the things that had been raised, was asking about their bus services.

Councillor Bassett said that it would be nice to also get Essex Passenger Transport here and members were seeing a lot of bus services reduced. Mr Macnab said that Passenger Transport would be going to a future meeting of the Neighbourhoods Select Committee.

This Committee could ask for a specialist from TfL to come here to update us on the Central Line and on the bus services served by TfL. Also there were access issues on the Central Line, especially at Buckhurst Hill. Members should let Mr Tautz, Democratic Services know what they would like to ask.

Councillor Bedford wondered if there was any room for manoeuvre between us and London Underground in regards to pricing, including over-ground lines, bringing them in line with underground prices. Councillor Sartin noted that this was a very big subject, maybe not so much for TfL as such. Mr Macnab noted that this was clearly an issue; the zones had been considered for extension outside London. We could pose the question and maybe get an up date on any dialogue happening at present

on this. But this was a strategic issue outside our scope. Councillor Mohindra noted that this would fall under the responsibility of the Department of Transport and not really for TfL. Councillor Bedford suggested that maybe we should write to or invite the Minister of Transport here.

Councillor Mohindra would like to ask TfL what they were doing with their stations and specifically their car parks and if they were looking to invest some capital.

Councillor Bedford said he would also like to have to have the Essex Fire and Rescue Chief Officer here in about a year's time to give us an update on the amalgamation of the Police and Fire and Rescue Service.

Councillor Sartin reiterated that if any member wanted to add something to the any of the above topics they should email Mr Tautz. Something would probably be going into the Members Bulletin to highlight this.

## **26. OVERVIEW & SCRUTINY COMMITTEE WORK PROGRAMME 2017/18 - REVIEW**

### **Overview and Scrutiny Committee**

The Committee reviewed their current work programme, noting that the Essex Highways Services had made an independent informal visit this evening and so that this could be taken off the work programme. The meeting had also discussed the Barts Health NHS Trust and TfL visits.

It was also noted the Epping Forest sixth-form consortium (item 1 on the reserve programme) was currently in flux. Officers would investigate and report back.

Councillor Patel commented that he had been to a recent Health Overview and Scrutiny meeting and had received a presentation on the North East London's CQC report on their Mental Health Services. Some of this would impact on our residents. He would like the organisation responsible for front line Mental Health Services in our district here at some time to see how they delivered their services, not just after an diagnosis has been made, but how they dealt with people before they reached crisis point. Councillor Mohindra noted that there was the launch of the Essex wide Mental Health and Wellbeing Strategy tomorrow. Councillor Whitbread would be in attendance and you may want him to report back.

Councillor Surtees noted that the Essex Children Services were also still on the reserve programme. He would like them to be reviewed again later on in the year following on from the Task and Finish Panel that looked into this recently.

Councillor Lea would like to ask officers from the Princess Alexandra Hospital or Barts Health to comment on the reports that the NHS were not taking on Australian or New Zealand nurses. Mr Macnab said that we could do this as we have asked this sort of staffing questions before. Officers will canvas questions from members for the next meeting.

### **Select Committees**

Communities Select Committee – no comments were made on their work programme.

Governance Select Committee – Councillor Wixley reported that they had received a good presentation from Building Control at their last meeting and asked if they could have the PowerPoint presentation attached to the minutes.

Neighbourhoods Select Committee – the Chairman had nothing further to add.

Resources Select Committee – the Chairman had nothing further to add.

**Task and Finish Panels**

Transformation Task and Finish Panel – Councillor Patel the chairman of the panel noted that they would be holding their second meeting on 1<sup>st</sup> August.

He noted that a comment was made on the timings of Overview and Scrutiny meetings in conjunction with the Cabinet meetings, could this be looked into. Mr Macnab said that there had been a review about a year ago looking at Select Committees. There is also the Scrutiny Chairs and Vice-Chairs meeting where this could be discussed.

**CHAIRMAN**