

DONCASTER METROPOLITAN BOROUGH COUNCIL
OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE

THURSDAY, 14TH DECEMBER, 2017

A MEETING of the OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE was held at the COUNCIL CHAMBER - CIVIC OFFICE, DONCASTER on THURSDAY, 14TH DECEMBER, 2017 at 1.00 PM

PRESENT:

Chair - Councillor Kevin Rodgers

Councillors Neil Gethin, Richard A Jones, Jane Kidd, Andrea Robinson and Paul Wray

ALSO IN ATTENDANCE:

Councillor Chris McGuinness, Cabinet Member for Communities, Voluntary Sector and the Environment
Steve Mawson, Chief Financial Officer and Assistant Director of Finance
Damian Allen, Director of People
Leanne Hornsby, Assistant Director Commissioning and Business Development
Patrick Birch, Programme Manager, Commissioning and Contracts
Peter Dale, Director Regeneration and Environment
Paul Tanney, Chief Executive

APOLOGIES:

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors John Healy and Bev Chapman

		<u>ACTION</u>
28	<u>TO CONSIDER THE EXTENT, IF ANY, TO WHICH THE PUBLIC AND PRESS ARE TO BE EXCLUDED FROM THE MEETING.</u>	
	None	
29	<u>DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST, IF ANY.</u>	
	As a Member of the St Leger Homes of Doncaster Board, Councillor R A Jones declared an interest in agenda item 8, St Leger Homes of Doncaster Performance and Delivery Update Quarter 2.	
30	<u>MINUTES FROM THE MEETING OF THE OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE HELD ON 7TH SEPTEMBER AND 5TH OCTOBER, 2017</u>	

	RESOLVED: that the minutes of the meeting held on 7 th September, and 5 th October, 2017 be agreed as a correct record and signed by the Chair.	
31	<u>PUBLIC STATEMENTS.</u>	
	<p>Doug Wright, Doncaster resident and representing “Keep Our NHS Public Doncaster and Bassetlaw Public”, explained that he had attended a recent meeting relating to the Accountable Care System and wished to ask the Committee if it would consider addressing the whole process as there were new issues happening every day.</p> <p>He stated that the Memorandum of Understanding had been presented to Council and Cabinet but this was wrong because it had not been considered by other meetings. He explained that he was concerned that nobody within the Council seemed to have a grip on what is happening between the Council and region.</p> <p>Mr Wright continued to explain that in his opinion there were no public meetings or minutes to show open and accountable decision making with regard to the Accountable Care System and the Strategic Transformation Plan.</p> <p>With regard to the Joint Committee addressing Clinical Commissioning Groups substantial variations, he stated that the meetings should meet bi-monthly in public buildings but it had not met since July. He stressed there should have been a meeting in Matlock on 11th December, but it did not meet.</p> <p>To conclude, Mr Wright made reference to the Better Care Fund and “throwing out money”, he did not know what was happening and did not think the Committee was doing anything to address it.</p> <p>In response to the statement made by Mr Wright, the Chair of OSMC and Health and Adult Social Care (HASC) jointly explained that the HASC Scrutiny Panel addressed in detail the South Yorkshire and Bassetlaw Accountable Care System Memorandum of Understanding and Sustainability and Transformation Programme at its last meeting. It was noted that Members were mindful that they had only scratched the surface</p>	

	<p>but to date satisfied with what had been addressed. The Chair of OSMC explained that because the topic was so large, Mr Wright's statement, which raised salient points, would be taken into account particularly during the HASC future work planning.</p> <p>It was stressed that there were many different lines of work being undertaken locally, that were not to be confused, particularly with regard to the Strategic Transformation Plan, Accountable Care System (to be called Accountable Care Partnership) and that the Memorandum of Understanding was about partners working closer together.</p>	
32	<p><u>OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY CONSIDERATION OF THE MAYORS BUDGET PROPOSALS 2018-2020/21.</u></p>	
	<p>The Committee gave consideration to the recently published Mayors draft budget proposals 2018/19 to 2020/21. It was noted that this was the start of consultation prior to the details being considered by Council on 21st December.</p> <p>The following areas were addressed:</p> <p><u>Local Government Pay Officer</u> – There was a potential additional cost based on recent pay offer, which was subject to consultation. It was noted that the increase to the pay bill would be over £6.2m but it was noted that the additional cost would be manageable from a mixture of New Homes Bonus additional funding and other funding. It was noted that the 2% pay increase over the next two years was currently out to consultation with unions.</p> <p><u>Pension Position</u> – It was noted that following a long running deficit and repayment schedule the position with South Yorkshire Pensions was now in a surplus position with protections in place to ensure no further deficit.</p> <p><u>Brexit Impact Assessment</u> – Members expressed concern and enquired as to what impact assessments were being undertaken, particularly relating to issues including the possible loss of care staff that were currently employed from throughout Europe. The Committee noted that the Strategic Policy Unit was tracking the position but until there were more concrete proposals it was difficult to plan. It was stressed that the current position with regard to Brexit negotiations could deter businesses from taking opportunities, again due to uncertainty.</p> <p><u>Scrutiny priorities for further consideration</u> – Members requested that they wished to be made aware of, from the finance and performance information, any clawback risks. In addition,</p>	

	<p>Members also stated there were three areas of concern, within the budget that they believed required further consideration by the Committee on 18th January, 2018 as follows:-</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> i. Children's Trust – wished to address it's budget proposals and action plan; ii. Adult Social Care – It was noted that specifically, Commissioning required addressing. However, it was noted that it was hard to remove resources from the wrong areas and transfer it into the right areas without a more effective mechanism being established. For example, a care facility could not be closed if people were still coming through the front door and not remaining in their own homes. It was stressed that his issues required careful monitoring. iii. Regeneration and Environment – general overspend. <p>The Committee recognised the resources available to local government were now at the thin edge of the wedge meaning delivery of services was much more difficult.</p> <p><u>Grants to 3rd Sector Organisations</u> – It was confirmed that the details showed grants for 2018/19. Members expressed concern that the grants did not detail how they were spent and wished to see conditions set for outcomes from these organisations. It was explained to the Committee that contracted services were not individually identified and listed in the budget papers.</p> <p><u>Additional Resources</u> – Members recognised that resources were tight and that the Council could not continue to do everything it already undertakes and realised that as the Council moved forward and transformed a debate was required about resource prioritisation.</p> <p>RESOLVED that:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 1. The discussion be noted; and 2. Directors be invited to address the following areas at the Committee on 18th January, 2018: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> (a) Children's Trust; (b) Adult Social Care – Commissioning; and (c) Regeneration and Environment – general overspend. 	
33	<p><u>FINANCE AND PERFORMANCE IMPROVEMENT REPORT: 2017-18 QUARTER 2</u></p>	

The Committee was presented with the finance and performance report, set out in a new format and providing an overview of progress in delivery of Doncaster Growing Together.

Members noted there were a couple of indicators that were showing green on the performance, when they were just slightly below the target and it was confirmed that this would be addressed. It was stressed that there was a tolerance level when measuring targets, which could automatically push, what looks like an amber percentage into the green position.

It was acknowledged that the general overspend was a concern but it had been taken into account as part of budget proposals. Performance had improved and many targets were being met and it was noted that a number of targets were still being worked on and would be in place by quarter 3.

Brexit implications – In response to queries relating to inflation it was noted that the local authorities did not have an allowance for inflation and recognised that there had been a depreciation in pay compared to inflation. Members discussed the issue generally with regard to Policy impact but acknowledged nationally that to date focus was mainly on the exit rather than consequences, the latter of which risks needed to be identified. It was stressed that once there was more detail then the local authority would have more control over circumstances.

Local Spend - Member were pleased to see local spend at a good point and acknowledged that some spend had to be with national companies depending on the service or product. With regard to the voluntary sector it was noted that services were also sourced locally. It was stressed that in some areas there was a lack of clarity what local spend was, as it was measured by where the bill is addressed to, meaning it could be a local company but the billing office could be elsewhere in the country.

Ensuring budget targets were being met – Members sought assurances that budget targets would be challenged and if there were any large overspends and that it would be brought to the Committee's attention. With regards to overspends the example of children who were in an out of care was highlighted as this could have a weekly influence on budget performance. The Committee noted that the Children's Trust had already been programmed in the work plan to address it's financial plan. It was also noted that there were small variances with the Regeneration and Environment budget, for example, Academies removing school meal contracts from local authority provision.

It was explained that not every heading in the budget was challenged but there was rigorous work undertaken in many

areas through Directorate Leadership Teams and with regard to the Children's Trust, like all contracts they were monitored and if overspent challenged.

Children's Trust - The Committee acknowledged that the Children's Trust would be attending the meeting in January to address its financial plan. It was noted that the Authority had some influence on the Trust's budget however, if there was any weakness/loss the Council would underwrite for the first 3 years, which from March 2018 would no longer be the case. Members acknowledged that the Council still had contractual agreements in place with the Trust and that the Department for Education was also studying the model's operation. A 5 year review of the service would be undertaken in October, 2019.

Adult Social Care – it was noted that the number of people accessing social care who were in receipt of direct payment continued to rise bringing increased choice and independence. However, the challenges still remained in the Directorate relating to delayed transfer to care from hospital.

Physical activity – with regard to this key behaviour challenge. Members were pleased to note that Doncaster has been chosen for a local delivery pilot and was looking forward to receiving its share of £100m that had been made available nationally, to address increasing the nation's physical activity.

Permanent residential residents – it was explained that the number of permanent residents had increased which was a result of some short stay residents being absorbed into long stay figures due to the length of time they had spent in care primarily due to the time of year.

Direct payments - The numbers of residents who were choosing to employ their own staff was being monitored and would be provided as part of the report at the next meeting.

Helped into work – it was noted that the percentage of people with a disability was below target and recognised that this was a long standing national issue. Locally, it was acknowledged that Doncaster was part of the Sheffield City Region health unit trial to support people with mental health and muscular skeletal problems back into work. It was noted that the Director was currently drafting elements of the report into learning disabilities and work was being undertaken at North Bridge on transition into work.

Doncaster Growing Together – In response to a question from the Chair the Director of People outlined that:

Caring – had very good buy in from health and care partners;
Living – good engagement with the sports, arts, culture and housing partners. Work on complex lives was showing a very positive start;
Learning – work was ongoing with partners and moving in a positive direction with a good level of commitment;

Rate of absenteeism in schools – the poor position was noted with the local authority monitoring rather than to intervene, requiring schools to manage poor attendance. If Schools were causing concern then warning letters would be issued with required support offered. The Committee noted that the Cabinet Member was currently developing a strategy and campaign to address the consequences for a child not accessing education, soon to be considered by Cabinet. The troubled families programme also addressed the whole family environment, including school attendance. The Committee acknowledged that the Attendance Policy sat within the Children and Young People Plan, approved in March, and targets had been set within the Strategy to build positive engagement with school.

Buy Doncaster – following it's recent launch some Academies were starting to buy back services from the Local Authority.

Regional Schools Commissioner (RSC) – The Committee noted that John Edwards had been appointed as the new RSC, bringing with him a wealth of understanding of local authorities to the role. Members learnt that the bulk of the issues to be addressed by the RSC were at secondary level. It was explained that South Yorkshire had sub regional priorities which included reducing the level of absenteeism and fixed exclusions.

Economic position – it was noted that it was a positive position relating to the number of new jobs and new companies however it was stressed there was a need to ensure residents were employed in highly skilled occupations. With regard to the number of homes built, this had increased, surpassing previous years.

The success and progress with the rail college was highlighted.

Regeneration and Environment projected overspend – it was noted that there had been a number of one-off budget issues creating pressures including transition of the waste contract and with regard to the fleet replacement it was noted there had been an underspend due to the slower vehicle replacements.

Market Place - concern was expressed that voids in the market place had resulted in a reduction in rental income and that footfall in the market area had fallen, due to modern shopping

	<p>habits. It was noted that this issue would be considered by the Regeneration and Housing Scrutiny Panel at its meeting on 11th January, 2018.</p> <p><u>Assets</u> – in response to a query relating to the sale of garage sites, it was noted that the Local Authority assets would need to reduce by half by the end of the strategic programme to create savings. It was noted however, if there was a long term element of strong income, then the asset would remain.</p> <p><u>Sheffield City Region</u> – it was noted that there were currently deliberations with regard to a possible Yorkshire Devolution but funding from Sheffield City Region would remain for those projects already contracted and being delivered on.</p>	
34	<p><u>SLHD PERFORMANCE & DELIVERY UPDATE: 2017/18 QUARTER TWO</u></p>	
	<p><u>Universal Credit</u> – the Committee noted the good performance with regard to the small number of rent arrears following the support provided by St Leger Homes of Doncaster to its tenants however, it was unsure as to what pressure the Christmas period would create. This was an issue that the Regeneration and Housing Scrutiny Panel would be considering on 15th March, 2018.</p> <p><u>Households in temporary accommodation</u> – concern was expressed that this was much higher than the target and higher than the same point last year. It was noted that there had been a continued increase in homelessness and rough sleeping across the borough which has had a significant impact on the numbers in temporary accommodation. The pressures were responded to and the increased level of homelessness and rough sleeping has led to a review reconsideration of the use of temporary accommodation and the commissioning of these services.</p> <p><u>Local spend/procurement</u> – Members were made aware of a session that had been held for local businesses to look at what services they could provide for St Leger Homes of Doncaster. However, it was acknowledged that some procurement had to be undertaken at a regional and national level. Members were made aware of an initiative undertaken by Preston entitled “Keeping the Preston pound in Preston”. The Local Authority held a “meet the buyer” session where services were procured differently whilst meeting EU guidelines.</p> <p><u>Duration of Meeting</u></p> <p>At this point of the meeting, it was proposed and seconded that in</p>	

	<p>accordance with Council Procedure Rule 33.1, the Committee, having sat continuously for 3 hours, continue to consider the items of business on the agenda.</p> <p>Other issues briefly addressed included:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Voids – the Committee noted that a project review had been undertaken on how voids were processed and addressed. The improvement was acknowledged. • Complaints; and • Qualified surveyors to undertake commercial valuations. <p>RESOLVED that the discussion be noted.</p>	
35	<u>OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY CHANGE OF MEMBERSHIP.</u>	
	<p>It was reported to the Committee that Councillor Mark Houlbrook had been selected to replace Councillor Dave Shaw as a Labour Group representative on the Community and Environment Scrutiny Panel.</p> <p>RESOLVED that the replacement of Councillor Dave Shaw by Councillor Mark Houlbrook as a Labour Group representative on the Community and Environment Scrutiny Panel, be approved.</p>	
36	<u>OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE WORK PLAN</u>	
	<p>The Senior Governance Officer introduced the Overview and Scrutiny Work Plan for 2017/18 for the period up to November 2017. The following issues were addressed:</p> <p>Commissioning Working Together – A meeting had been set for 10th December, but had to be rescheduled due to heavy snowfall. The meeting was due to be held on 29th January, 2018.</p> <p>Letter from the Mayor relating to Finance and Performance Improvement – with regard to the Support for our Armed Forces Community, the Chair of Regeneration and Housing Scrutiny Panel requested that a further letter be forwarded to the Mayor requesting that the regular update provided by the Veterans Board to the Equalities, Diversity and Inclusion Board be made available to the Committee, as the Committee was very keen to review the performance of this vital work.</p> <p>RESOLVED that:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. The work plan, be noted; and 2. A letter to the Mayor relating to support for our Armed Forces 	

	Community, as detailed in the minute above, be agreed.	
--	--	--