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Minutes of the meeting of the **SCRUTINY (POLICY AND PERFORMANCE) COMMITTEE** held at the Council Offices, Whitfield on Tuesday, 13 March 2018 at 6.00 pm.

Present:

Chairman: Councillor K Mills

Councillors: P M Beresford
T A Bond
M I Cosin
R J Frost
M J Ovenden
M Rose
D A Sargent
P M Wallace (as substitute for Councillor J M Heron)

Officers: Director of Environment and Corporate Assets
Head of Legal Services
Environmental Protection Manager
Democratic Services Manager

137 APOLOGIES

An apology for absence was received from Councillor J M Heron.

138 APPOINTMENT OF SUBSTITUTE MEMBERS

It was noted that in accordance with Council Procedure Rule 4, Councillor P M Wallace had been appointed as substitute member for Councillor J M Heron.

139 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

There were no declarations of interest made by Members.

140 MINUTES

The consideration of the Minutes was deferred to a future meeting.

141 PUBLIC SPEAKING

The Democratic Services Manager advised that no members of the public had registered to speak on items on the agenda to which the public speaking protocol applied.

142 DECISIONS OF THE CABINET RELATING TO RECOMMENDATIONS FROM THE SCRUTINY (POLICY AND PERFORMANCE) COMMITTEE

There were no decisions to note.

143 ISSUES REFERRED TO THE COMMITTEE BY COUNCIL, CABINET, SCRUTINY (COMMUNITY AND REGENERATION) COMMITTEE OR ANOTHER COMMITTEE

There were no items for consideration.

144 ITEMS CALLED-IN FOR SCRUTINY OR PLACED ON THE AGENDA BY A MEMBER OF THE COMMITTEE, ANY INDIVIDUAL NON-EXECUTIVE MEMBERS OR PUBLIC PETITION

There were no items for consideration.

145 NOTICE OF FORTHCOMING KEY DECISIONS

The Democratic Services Manager presented the Notice of Forthcoming Key Decisions to the Committee for its consideration.

RESOLVED: That the Notice of Forthcoming Key Decisions be noted.

146 SCRUTINY WORK PROGRAMME

The Democratic Services Manager presented the Scrutiny Work Programme to the Committee for its consideration.

RESOLVED: That the Work Programme be noted.

147 REVISED APPRENTICESHIP POLICY

The Head of Legal Services presented the report on the Revised Apprenticeship Policy.

Members were advised that the Apprenticeship, Graduate Placement and Work Experience Scheme and its policies had been reviewed to ensure they met the new Government Apprenticeship Scheme that was introduced in May 2017. The new Apprenticeship Policy would replace the current policy and sit alongside the existing policies in the Apprenticeship, Graduate Placement and Work Experience Scheme.

There would also be a new pay condition introduced recognising the wider spectrum of apprenticeships that were now offered. This would cover from funding band 2 – GCSE level to funding band 15 – masters level.

The Council currently had nine apprentices the majority of which were part way through a 2 year apprenticeship. While there was no guaranteed job at the end of the apprenticeship the Council had retained some apprentices.

RESOLVED: That the report be noted.

148 CONSULTATION ON PUBLIC SPACES PROTECTION ORDER

The Environmental Protection Manager presented the report on the consultation for a Public Spaces Protection Order (PSPO).

Members were advised that the Anti-Social Behaviour Crime and Policing Act 2014 provided local authorities with powers to make PSPOs. These orders were intended to address activities carried out in public spaces which had a detrimental effect on the quality of life of those in the locality.

The Council implemented a PSPO in 2015 that related to:

- (i) Failing to remove dog faeces (covering the whole District);
- (ii) Failing to put a dog on a lead after being requested to do so by an authorised officer (covering the whole District);
- (iii) Failing to keep a dog on a lead in specified places; and
- (iv) Permitting a dog to enter specified land from which dogs are excluded

Under the legislation a PSPO operated for 3 years unless extended and/or varied and it was proposed that it be extended for another 3 years with minor amendments. The level of the fixed penalty notice would remain at £75 to be paid within 14 days with no reduction for early payment.

Members were advised that some initial responses to the consultation had already been received.

The following points were raised by Members:

- To ask for the Freeman's Way play area to be included as a dog exclusion area.
- In response to a question concerning extending the scope of the PSPO to cover town centre precincts in respect of keeping a dog on a lead it was stated that the Council would encourage consultation responses in respect of this matter.
- To question if officers were satisfied that the level of enforcement was sufficient given the majority of people were issued with warnings rather than a fixed penalty notice.

RESOLVED: That the report be noted.

149 ENVIRONMENTAL ENFORCEMENT SERVICE DELIVERY

The Environmental Enforcement Manager presented the report on Environmental Enforcement Service Delivery.

It was stated that in November 2016 the Cabinet had agreed to a trial using contractors to patrol the District and issue fixed penalty notices (FPNs) for offences relating to litter and dog fouling. While the initial contract was entered into with Kingdom Services Group Limited for 12 months there was provision for two extensions of 12 months each to the contract. It was proposed that the contract be extended for a further 12 months with a variation to reduce the number of field officers from 3 to 2.

There were no direct costs to the Council as the contractors costs were met from monies generated by FPNs. The income generated from FPNs was also used to fund envirocrime initiatives such as the seizure of vehicles involved in fly tipping.

In response to concerns expressed by some Members as to whether the service provided best value for money and if contractors were more likely to target easy fines, it was stated that the Council had control over what was enforced and could target the contractors to work on specific areas or tasks.

RESOLVED: That it be recommended to Cabinet:

(a) That the current contract be extended by a period of 12 months with a variation to the current terms reducing the amount of field officers from 3 to 2.

(b) That the Committee be provided with a report outlining the costs of operating the service and the revenue generated by the service as well as regular updates on service performance.

150 EXCLUSION OF THE PRESS AND PUBLIC

RESOLVED: That, under Section 100(A)(4) of the Local Government Act 1972, the public be excluded from the meeting for the remainder of the business on the grounds that the items to be considered involved the likely disclosure of exempt information as defined in paragraph 3 of Part I of Schedule 12A of the Act.

151 AWARD OF CONTRACT FOR RESURFACING WORKS TO DEAL PIER

The Director of Environment and Corporate Assets presented the report on the Award of a Contractor for Resurfacing Works to Deal Pier.

RESOLVED: That the report be noted.

The meeting ended at 7.07 pm.