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Minutes of the meeting of the **SCRUTINY (POLICY AND PERFORMANCE) COMMITTEE** held at the Council Offices, Whitfield on Tuesday, 5 June 2018 at 6.00 pm.

Present:

Chairman: Councillor K Mills

Councillors: T A Bond
M I Cosin
R J Frost
D A Sargent

Officers: Head of Parks and Open Spaces
Principal Infrastructure and Delivery Officer
Democratic Services Manager

1 APOLOGIES

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors P I Carter, S C Manion and M Rose.

2 APPOINTMENT OF SUBSTITUTE MEMBERS

There were no substitute members appointed.

3 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

There were no declarations of interest made by Members.

4 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.

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

Members received the decisions of the Cabinet relating to recommendations made by the Committee.

RESOLVED: That the Cabinet decisions relating to recommendations from the Scrutiny (Policy and Performance) Committee be noted.

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

There were no items of business.

7 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 of business.

8 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.

9 SCRUTINY WORK PROGRAMME

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

It was agreed to defer the update on the St James development (DTIZ) to the autumn so that Councillor R J Frost could attend the meeting.

Councillor K Mills requested that an item would be added to the work programme covering BREXIT preparations.

RESOLVED: That the Work Programme be noted subject to the change to the scheduling of the DTIZ item and the addition of an item on BREXIT preparations.

10 GENERAL REPAIRS TO PARKS, GARDENS AND CHURCHYARDS REPORT

The Head of Parks and Open Spaces and the Principal Infrastructure and Delivery Officer presented the report on General Repairs to Parks, Gardens and Churchyards.

Members were advised that the current open spaces strategies had successfully delivered a number of priority projects, such as the restoration of Kearsney Abbey and Russell Gardens. The transfer of the grounds maintenance service in-house also provided the Council with the opportunity to deliver smaller scale projects such as repairs to uneven footpaths in the Council's strategic parks.

It was now necessary to review the open space strategies to ensure that the identified priorities were up-to-date and reflected the Council's current capabilities. To that end Cabinet had allocated £60,000 identified within the Medium Term Financial Plan towards the cost of updating the strategies, and addressing the most urgent repairs to structural features within the Council's parks, cemeteries and churchyards. The list of urgent repairs had been drawn up in consultation with the Council's Health and Safety Officer.

Members raised the following points:

- The need for increased provision of dog waste bins.
- The need for a strategic assessment of play area need.
- The disposal of grass cuttings at Markwood. In response the Head of Parks and Open Spaces highlighted the costs of collecting and disposing of grass cuttings from parks and issues with capacity at the waste sites.
- The provision for dog exclusion zones at play areas. In response it was confirmed that all play areas were dog exclusion zones.

- The importance of maximising revenue for the Council from events on Council land.

The Principal Infrastructure and Delivery Officer urged councilors and members of the public to respond to the consultation on the updated open space strategies when it was launched.

RESOLVED: That the report be noted.

The meeting ended at 6.46 pm.