

Minutes of the meeting of the **OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY COMMITTEE** held at the Council Offices, Whitfield on Monday, 11 October 2021 at 6.00 pm.

Present:

Chairman: Councillor C D Zosseder

Councillors: T A Bond
P M Brivio
D R Friend
D A Hawkes
S C Manion
M Rose
R S Walkden
P Walker
H M Williams

Also Present: Councillor D P Murphy
Councillor O C de R Richardson

Officers: Strategic Director (Operations and Commercial)
Head of Assets and Building Control
Head of Finance and Investment
Strategic Project Manager (Infrastructure)
Corporate Projects Manager
Housing Development Officer
Democratic and Corporate Services Manager

60 APOLOGIES

There were no apologies for absence received.

61 APPOINTMENT OF SUBSTITUTE MEMBERS

The Democratic and Corporate Services Manager advised that no notice had been received for the appointment of substitute members.

62 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

Councillor T A Bond declared an Other Significant Interest (OSI) in Minute No. 74 (Market Square, Dover) by reason of his directorship in the Dover Town Team and advised that he would withdraw from the meeting during the consideration of that item of business.

63 MINUTES

The consideration of the Minutes was deferred.

64 DECISIONS OF THE CABINET RELATING TO RECOMMENDATIONS FROM THE OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY COMMITTEE

The decisions of the Cabinet relating to recommendations made by the Overview and Scrutiny Committee at its meeting held on 4 October 2021 were noted.

65 ISSUES REFERRED TO THE COMMITTEE BY COUNCIL, CABINET, OR ANOTHER COMMITTEE

The Democratic and Corporate Services Manager advised that there were no issues referred to the Committee by Council, Cabinet or another Committee.

66 PETITION - OPEN LETTER TO CALL ON DOVER DISTRICT COUNCIL TO COMMIT TO HELPING AFGHAN REFUGEES

In the absence of the petition organiser to present the petition, the Democratic and Corporate Services Manager advised that a written response would be provided to the petition.

The Portfolio Holder for Social Housing and Port Health was thanked by the Chairman for attending the meeting.

67 REQUEST FROM FOLKESTONE AND HYTHE DISTRICT COUNCIL'S OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY COMMITTEE

The Democratic and Corporate Services Manager advised that a request had been received from Folkestone and Hythe District Council's Scrutiny Committee for a 'joint' meeting to scrutinise the waste service.

The Chairman advised that she supported a meeting of the two committees being held at Dover and from conversations with her counterpart at Folkestone and Hythe District Council believed that this would be acceptable to it. The rationale for the 'joint' meeting was that as the contract was a shared contract with Veolia for both authorities the issues in respect of the use of resources and service performance for one authority impacted on the other. In addition, there were concerns that inconsistent answers had been provided to each authority by Veolia and a 'joint' meeting would enable this to be explored more comprehensively.

Members discussed whether the 'joint' meeting was necessary given the Overview and Scrutiny Committee had already committed to holding a further meeting of its own on the subject.

The Strategic Director (Corporate Resources) advised that the service was stable now but had required additional temporary measures to achieve this situation. It was expected that Veolia would seek to put in more permanent measures in early 2022.

RESOLVED: That the meeting of the two Overview and Scrutiny Committees be agreed for November 2022 and the Democratic and Corporate Services Manager be requested to make the appropriate arrangements to facilitate it.

68 NOTICE OF FORTHCOMING KEY DECISIONS

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

There being no dissent indicated, it was agreed that the Notice of Forthcoming Key Decisions be noted.

69 SCRUTINY WORK PROGRAMME

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

There being no dissent indicated, it was agreed that the Work Programme be noted.

70 PUBLIC SPEAKING

The Democratic and Corporate 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.

71 PUBLIC TOILET PROVISION

The Head of Assets and Building Control presented an update on Public Toilet Provision in the Dover District.

The Committee was advised that 10 of the district's public toilets were financially supported by parish council's and 7 by Dover District Council.

The Council undertook inspections of the public toilets on a weekly or fortnightly basis and the contractor did have prior notice of which facility would be inspected. In accordance with the contract any defects found were immediately notified to the contractor which was required to return to site to rectify them in accordance with the provisions of the contract. This system had resulted in a reduction in reports of service failure and the arrangements had been formalised as part of the new cleaning contract.

The assets maintenance team would deal with the more complex maintenance issues that the cleaning contractor previously was responsible for as it was a more cost-effective arrangement and allowed for repairs to be undertaken more quickly.

Members discussed the need for better sign-posting to public toilets, particularly the ones in the Dover Discovery Centre, to assist visitors to the district. It was suggested that the toilets should be shown on on-line maps as well as with physical signs.

The involvement of Dover Town Council in providing financial support for public toilets was discussed and in particular the provision of toilets in the area of Maison Dieu. The Portfolio Holder for Community and Corporate Property, Councillor O C de R Richardson advised that this was a matter he had taken a keen interest in and that once Maison Dieu had been refurbished its toilets would be open to the public. The Head of Assets and Building Control advised that there were potential opportunities for new public toilet provision in other areas of Dover's town centre and the potential of schemes such as 'pay to pee' were being investigated. It was noted that any new toilet facilities would need to be approaching carbon neutral.

Councillor C D Zosseder thanked the Head of Assets and Building Control and the Portfolio Holder for Community and Corporate Property for attending the meeting and updating the committee on public toilet provision in the district.

(Councillor S C Manion left the meeting at the end of this item of business.)

72 EXCLUSION OF THE PRESS AND PUBLIC

It was moved by Councillor P M Brivio, duly seconded by Councillor H M Williams and

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.

73 APPROVAL TO ENTER INTO DESIGN AND BUILD CONTRACT FOR DEVELOPMENT OF INTERIM HOUSING AT POULTON CLOSE, DOVER

The Head of Finance and Investment presented the report on the Approval to Enter into Design and Build Contract for Development of Interim Housing at Poulton Close, Dover.

Members considered the report and discussed the decision of the Cabinet at its meeting held on 4 October 2021.

There being no dissent indicated, it was agreed to note the report.

74 MARKET SQUARE, DOVER

The Strategic Project Manager (Infrastructure) presented the report on Market Square, Dover.

Members considered the report and discussed the decision of the Cabinet at its meeting held on 4 October 2021.

RESOLVED: (a) That it be recommended to Cabinet that it endorse decision CAB46 as follows:

That the award of the contract to F M Conway for the consideration set out in the report be approved, noting that the external project costs would be funded by the Coastal Community Fund grant (£2.44 million), Dover District Council (£500,000) and a further £700,000 from the Council's Town Centre Regeneration Fund.

(b) That an update on the Council's regeneration programme be added to the work programme.

(Councillor T A Bond declared an Other Significant Interest (OSI) in Minute No. 74 (Market Square, Dover) by reason of his directorship in the Dover Town Team and withdrew from the meeting during the consideration of this item of business.)

The meeting ended at 7.40 pm.