

Minutes of the meeting of the **OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY COMMITTEE** held at the Council Offices, Whitfield on Monday, 25 April 2022 at 6.00 pm.

Present:

Chairman: Councillor C D Zosseider

Councillors: T A Bond
D A Hawkes
S C Manion (Mins 128 - 137 only)
K Mills (as substitute for Councillor P M Brivio)
M Rose
R S Walkden
H M Williams

Officers: Strategic Director (Corporate Resources)
Strategic Director (Operations and Commercial)
Head of Assets and Building Control
Head of Finance and Investment
Head of Investment, Growth and Tourism
Head of Leadership Support
Principal Climate Change and Sustainability Officer
Democratic and Corporate Services Manager

128 **APOLOGIES**

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors P M Brivio, D R Friend and P Walker.

129 **APPOINTMENT OF SUBSTITUTE MEMBERS**

It was noted that in accordance with Council Procedure Rule 4, Councillor K Mills had been appointed as substitute member for Councillor P M Brivio.

130 **DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

Councillor T A Bond declared an Other Significant Interest (OSI) in Minute No. 141 (Redevelopment of Stembrook Car Park and Former Co-op Building, Dover) by reason of his employment and advised of his intention to withdraw from the meeting for the consideration of that item of business.

Councillor S C Manion declared a Disclosable Pecuniary Interest (DPI) in Minute No. 138 (Performance Report - Third Quarter 2021/22) in respect of business rates and advised of his to withdraw from the meeting for the consideration of that item of business.

131 **MINUTES**

The Minutes of the meetings held on 24 January 2022 and 21 February 2022 were approved as a correct record for signing by the Chairman.

132 **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 April 2022 were noted.

133 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.

134 NOTICE OF FORTHCOMING KEY DECISIONS

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

In the absence of any dissent it was agreed that the Notice of Forthcoming Key Decisions be noted.

135 SCRUTINY WORK PROGRAMME

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

Members identified the following items for inclusion in the work programme:

- That an update on the Regent in Deal be included within the work programme.
- That Members consider items for a potential scrutiny of Kent County Council services.

The Democratic and Corporate Services Manager advised that the Committee was expected to receive the answers to its questions on blood services at Deal Hospital following a meeting of the Clinical Commissioning Group (CCG) on 26 May 2022. In respect of the Committee's other questions the CCG was seeking to identify the relevant organisations that would need to attend to answer the questions that the Committee had submitted.

RESOLVED: That the Work Programme be noted, subject to the inclusion of an update on the Regent, Deal and a potential scrutiny of Kent County Council services.

136 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.

137 CLIMATE CHANGE UPDATE

The Head of Assets and Building Control presented the Climate Change Update.

Members were advised that there are two strands to the Council's net zero ambition – a target of 2030 for the Council's own estate and functions to become net zero and a target of 2050 for the district with the Council's support to become carbon neutral.

In respect of the Council's 2030 target, the Department of Energy and Climate Change, in conjunction with the Department for Environment, Food, and Rural Affairs, produced guidance on how to measure and report greenhouse gas emissions. The format was based on the Green House Gas (GHG) Protocol which was an internationally recognised standard for the corporate accounting and report of GHG emissions. The Council recorded emissions are based on stationary assets (both owned by the Council and managed by others on the Council's behalf) and transport emissions (relating to Council functions and statutory duties). The Council's GHG emissions did not include social housing or water usage.

Unlike many local authorities, the Council's data was unbroken since 2008/9 despite the statutory requirement to record such data being removed and this provided a baseline to report against. The new performance report would include emissions data for the first time as part of the monitoring process.

It was stated that the Council could not achieve net zero purely on reducing emissions and would need to off-set/in-set emissions.

Members considered the following points:

- To welcome the inclusion of climate change figures in the performance report.
- To raise concerns over the impact of Operation Brock on the district's road network emissions. These emissions were reported through a different measure than the Council's emissions by the Department for Business, Energy and Industrial Strategy.
- To ask that officers explore the potential for reporting on road network emissions through the Climate Change Project Advisory Group.
- The energy efficiency measures required for new buildings. It was noted that solar energy was not always the best way of achieving this as it was dependent on a number of environmental factors (location, direction of roof, etc.) and better insulation was often more effective.
- To question if the Council was on course to achieve its 2030 target. Members were advised that there was confidence that the glidepath (it was not a straight line) to net zero by 2030 was attainable.
- The difficulties involved with a Grade 1 listed building (the Maison Dieu) achieving net zero. This was where the in-set/off-set of emissions was important.

In the absence of any dissent, the report was noted.

138 PERFORMANCE REPORT - THIRD QUARTER 2021/22

The Head of Leadership Support presented the Performance Report – Quarter 3, 2021/22.

There were 27 Green indicators, 6 Amber indicators and 5 Red indicators for Quarter 3, 2021/22. The 5 Red indicators were:

- KPI04 (Percentage of Business Rates collected)
- ASS02 (Percentage of properties that have current EICR (Electrical Installation Condition Report)

- ACC04 (Percentage of invoices paid on time)
- MUS002 (The number of visits to the museum in person per 1,000 population)
- WAS003 (Number of collections missed per 100,000 collections of household waste)

Members discussed the following points:

- The agreed response time for calls (EKS001). Members were advised that this was set by the SLA with Civica.
- That in respect of HOM007, officers had recognised the concerns and had commissioned a survey to identify the condition of the garages owned by the Council.
- That in respect of HOM018 and 019, the Council had inherited long void issues from East Kent Housing and was working to clear the long-term voids. It was expected that the situation would improve over the next six months.
- That the definition of major works for HOM022 was a new kitchen, bathroom, heating system or roofing.

(Councillor S C Manion declared a Disclosable Pecuniary Interest (DPI) in Minute No. 138 (Performance Report - Third Quarter 2021/22) in respect of business rates and withdrew from the meeting for the consideration of this item of business.)

139 EXCLUSION OF THE PRESS AND PUBLIC

It was moved by Councillor M Rose, duly seconded by Councillor T A Bond 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.

140 FUTURE HIGH STREETS FUND

The Major Projects and Programme Manager presented the report on the Future High Streets Fund.

RESOLVED: That it be recommended to the Cabinet that meetings of the Dover Town Regeneration Advisory Board be scheduled in respect of regeneration projects such as the Future High Streets Fund and the Redevelopment of Stembrook Car Park and Former Co-op Building, Dover.

141 REDEVELOPMENT OF STEMBROOK CAR PARK AND FORMER CO-OP BUILDING, DOVER

The Head of Investment, Growth and Tourism presented the report on the Redevelopment of Stembrook Car Park and Former Co-Op Building, Dover.

In the absence of any dissent it was agreed to note the report.

(Councillor T A Bond declared an Other Significant Interest (OSI) in Minute No. 141 (Redevelopment of Stembrook Car Park and Former Co-op Building, Dover) by reason of his employment and withdrew from the meeting for the consideration of this item of business.)

The meeting ended at 7.58 pm.