

ENVIRONMENTAL AND DEVELOPMENT SERVICES COMMITTEE

26 May 2022

OPEN

PRESENT:

Labour Group

Councillor Taylor (Chair) Councillors, Dunn Heath, Singh and Southerd

Conservative Group

Councillors Brown, Dawson, Fitzpatrick, Ford Haines and Redfern

Non-Grouped

Councillor Wheelton

EDS/01 APOLOGIES

The Committee was informed that apologies have been received from Councillor Pegg (Labour Group) and Councillor Muller (Conservative Group)

EDS/02 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

The Committee was informed that no declarations of interest had been received.

EDS/03 QUESTIONS FROM MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC UNDER COUNCIL PROCEDURE RULE NO 10

The Committee was informed that no questions from Members of the Public had been received.

EDS/04 QUESTIONS BY MEMBERS OF THE COUNCIL UNDER COUNCIL PROCEDURE RULE NO 11

The Committee was informed that no questions from Members of the Council had been received.

MATTERS DELEGATED TO COMMITTEE

EDS/05 **CORPORATE PLAN 2020-24: PERFORMANCE REPORT (2021-2022 QUARTER 4 –1 APRIL TO 31 MARCH)**

The Strategic Director (Service Delivery) introduced the report to the Committee and the Head of Planning and Strategic Housing outlined the three indicators which included planning conditions in relation to water consumption, the design quality of schemes and timescales for discharging planning decisions. It was explained that the measures had been impacted by the volume of work and the turnover of staff which would improve with the approval for additional staff and a number of new starters.

The Strategic Director (Service Delivery) highlighted the successes which included the nationally recognised Climate and Environment Action Plan, the reduction in fly tipping noted that the removal of recycling centres had not increased the number of fly tipping incidents.

The Chair enquired when the impact of new planning staff would be seen. The Head of Planning and Strategic Housing informed the Committee that a noticeable improvement should be seen in the next few months.

Councillor Haines suggested that monthly planning application updates would be useful. The Head of Planning and Strategic Housing agreed to circulate to Committee Members regular information regarding applications received.

Members sought assurance that attention to design quality and detail for each application would still be there. The Head of Planning and Strategic Housing confirmed that the quality of schemes would not be compromised and that no corners would be cut.

Members thanked the Depot team for their continued hard work during difficult times.

Councillor Brown enquired about and an update on SUDS and housing numbers. The Strategic Director (Service Delivery) informed the Committee that a SUDS report had been commissioned looking at all SUDS and the risks which advised the Council to think carefully about the adoption of those SUDS that required urgent work. The Head of Planning and Strategic Housing informed the Committee that the five year housing supply had improved with 1,000 built per year over the last few years and confirmed the short term housing supply was healthy.

RESOLVED:

The Committee approved progress against performance targets set out in the Corporate Plan 2020 - 2024.

EDS/06 **SERVICE PLAN 2022-23**

The Strategic Director (Service Delivery) presented the report to the Committee and explained how the Plan gave Members a flavour of what the Directorate delivered and then gave an overview of what was covered in the report.

Members enquired how the changes in the report could be identified and raised concern about resilience in respect of the Heads of Service vacancies. The Strategic Director (Service Delivery) agreed to ask the Team how the changes could be highlighted and confirmed that the Council had successfully recruited to the Heads of Service vacancies and who would be joining the Council in July and August.

Councillor Fitzpatrick enquired why the MPFT element had been dropped and what the position was regarding the proposed planning application charges. The Strategic Director clarified that MPFT element would now be reported to Finance and Management Committee and that the planning charging policy was on hold until staff were in place and were in a position to deliver.

RESOLVED:

The Committee approved the Service Plan for the Service Delivery Directorate and the Chief Executive's Directorate as the basis for overall service delivery over the period 1 April 2022 to 31 March 2023.

EDS/07 **COMMITTEE WORK PROGRAMME**

The Strategic Director – Service Delivery presented the report to the Committee.

RESOLVED:

The Committee considered and approved the updated work programme.

EDS/08 **The Chairman may therefore move:**

That in accordance with Section 100 (A)(4) of the Local Government Act 1972 (as amended) the press and public be excluded from the remainder of the Meeting as it is likely, in view of the nature of the business to be transacted or the nature of the proceedings, that there would be disclosed exempt information as defined in the paragraph of Part I of the Schedule 12A of the Act indicated in the header to each report on the Agenda.

EDS/09 **EXEMPT QUESTIONS BY MEMBERS OF THE COUNCIL UNDER COUNCIL PROCEDURE RULE NO 11**

The Committee was informed that no exempt questions from Members of the Council had been received.

The meeting terminated at 19:00 hours

COUNCILLOR TAYLOR

CHAIR