

Report to Full Council regarding Finance, Assets & Performance Scrutiny Committee

Date and Time of Meeting: 20th September 2018, 19:00

After dealing with the Apologies of Three Members, confirming no Declarations of Interest and Resolving the Previous Minutes the Committee reviewed the following matters;

1, Medium Term Financial Strategy 2018 / 19 Update

The Executive Director (Resources and Support Services) presented the Medium Term Financial Strategy (MTFS) and gave members of the Committee opportunity to scrutinise the report prior to consideration by Cabinet on 17 October.

Whilst early in the production of the MTFS for the forthcoming Financial Period, several questions from the Committee were raised including;

- Questioning why no possible effects of Brexit had been modelled in the MTFS
- Questioning the reduction of Employee Budgets and the possible effects on the Workforce
- Questioning the lower returns forecast from the Commercial Portfolio
- Did the Housing options reflect the preferred Local Plan outturn
- What recognition was contained within the MTFS regarding the Ryecroft Development and the issues therein

2, Modern Slavery Update Report

The report on Modern Slavery was introduced by the Partnerships Manager who outlined Section 54 of the Modern Slavery and Human Trafficking Statement 2018/19 that required organisations above a certain size, which supplied goods or services, to prepare and publish an annual Modern Slavery and Human Trafficking Statement.

As Chairman of the Committee, I was very disappointed with the disconnect between what was brought to the Committee and the Modern Slavery Charter that was passed by the previous Full Council.

Members raised a number of questions in relation to the practical application and enforcement of the Statement and or Charter, some of which, were addressed by the Partnerships Manager.

- How would the Council determine if a Supplier was in contravention of our Policy and how would that be monitored
- Has the Policy been changed / updated to include the Charter passed by the Full Council previously
- How is the Policy / Charter being passed on to staff etc. Whilst it is right that safeguarding is being placed at the heart of this Policy, there is a danger that the Procurement side is being forgotten.

As Chairman, I was pleased that the comments of the Members would be taken into account when the Statement is revised and I would hope that the Statement returns to the Committee before it is brought before Full Council in the future.

3, Work Programme

The Scrutiny Officer confirmed that the Treasury Management Strategy 2019/20, Revenue and Capital Budgets 2019/20 – Progress/Update and Scale of Fees and Charges 2019/20 would be presented to the December Meeting.

I also proposed a joint meeting with members of the Health, Wellbeing and Partnerships Scrutiny Committee concerning the Guild Hall and it was agreed that arrangements would be made for this to be held in January 2019.

Meeting closed at 20:05

Cllr Mike Stubbs
Chairman
Finance, Assets & Performance Scrutiny Committee