

Minutes of the meeting of the SCRUTINY
COMMITTEE held at 9.30 am on Thursday,
29th June, 2017 at Council Chamber, Civic
Centre, Stone Cross, Northallerton, DL6 2UU

Present

Councillor S P Dickins (in the Chair)

Councillor Mrs C S Cookman
 C A Dickinson
 R W Hudson

Councillor J Noone
 Ms C Palmer

Also in Attendance

Councillor M S Robson

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors G W Ellis, K G Hardisty, D Hugill, B Phillips and A Wake.

SC.3 **MINUTES**

THE DECISION:

That the minutes of the meeting of the Committee held on 23 March and 23 May 2017 (SC.34 – 35 and SC.1 - SC.2), previously circulated, be signed as a correct record.

SC.4 **REVIEW OF RISK MANAGEMENT**

All Wards

The Head of Service – Finance (s151 Officer) presented the quarterly monitoring report on the strategic risks affecting the Council.

To ensure that strategic risks were appropriately measured and that suitable actions were undertaken to mitigate the effect of each risk it had been agreed that the Scrutiny Committee would receive a quarterly monitoring report.

The Committee enquired as to whether the strategic risks associated with the Prison Development should be included within the monitoring report and officers agreed to look in this issue.

THE DECISION:

That the quarterly report on the strategic risks affecting the Council and the actions that are in place to mitigate the impact upon the Council of each risk be noted.

SC.5 **COUNCIL PERFORMANCE 2016/17 (QUARTER 4)**

All Wards

The Head of Service – Finance (s151 Officer) presented a report setting out the Quarter 4 Performance for 2016/17. The Committee asked a number of questions which were responded to at the meeting and where further information was requested it was agreed that the Committee would be provided with this information separately.

The Committee discussed whether benchmarking information would be of benefit within the report and agreed that, where appropriate, this would provide additional information that may be of assistance to the Committee. The Committee was advised that this issue had been identified and discussed by Management Team for inclusion with the 2017/18 report.

THE DECISION:

That:-

- (1) progress made against the Council Plan for Quarter 4 of 2016/17, as detailed within Annex A of the report, be noted; and
- (2) it be requested that benchmarking information be included within the Council Performance report, where appropriate.

SC.6 **ANNUAL REVIEW 2016/17 - HAMBLETON HIGHLIGHTS**

All Wards

The Head of Service – Finance (s151 Officer) presented a report which provided a summary of the Council's performance and achievements during 2016/17. The Committee asked a number of questions which were responded to at the meeting and where further information was requested it was agreed that the Committee would be provided with this information separately.

THE DECISION:

That the Annual Review report for 2016/17 performance to deliver services to the community be noted.

SC.7 **POLICY REVIEW WORK PROGRAMME 2017/18**

All Wards

The Committee gave consideration to areas of policy review work for 2017/18 and a number of suggestions were discussed at length. These included scrutinising the Planning Department, reviewing the Customer Services policies and systems used for dealing with customer queries and the effectiveness of the transfer of Council's assets to voluntary organisations such as The Forum, Dog Wardens, enforcement of fly-tipping, the Prison Development.

The Committee noted that there were two topics for in-depth policy review remaining on the Committee's work programme from 2016/17, namely the Graduate and Apprentice Scheme and Green Waste. It was reported that there would be a full review of Green Waste in 2018 and therefore it was not considered appropriate to carry out a review on Green Waste at the present time.

The Committee accepted that a number of the suggested topics for review would require further discussion to identify and clarify which specific policies would be relevant for further in-depth review and brought back to a future meeting for further debate.

Members suggested three topics be prioritised for in depth review, these being the Graduate and Apprentice Scheme, the enforcement policy on fly-tipping and the effectiveness of the transfer of Council assets to voluntary organisations.

The Committee requested that a Project Plan for the review on the Graduate and Apprentice Scheme be produced for consideration at the Committee's next meeting on 27 July 2017.

THE DECISION:

That a draft project plan be produced for the in-depth policy review on the Graduate and Apprentice Scheme for consideration at the Committee's next meeting on 27 July 2017.

The meeting closed at 10.30 am

Chairman of the Committee