

OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY COMMITTEE

Minutes of a Meeting of the Overview and Scrutiny Committee held in the Council Chamber, Civic Centre, Tannery Lane, Ashford on the **12 November 2019**

Present:

Cllr. Ovenden (Chairman)
Cllr. Michael (Vice-Chairman)

Cllrs. Chilton, Forest, Howard-Smith, Iliffe, Krause, Ledger, Link, Mulholland, C. Suddards.

In accordance with Procedure Rule 1.2 (iii) Cllr C. Suddards attended as Substitute Member for Cllr. Farrell.

Apologies:

Cllrs. Burgess, Farrell.

Also Present:

Cllr. N. Bell

Chief Executive, Economic Development Manager, Head of Corporate Policy, ED & Communications, Compliance and Data Protection Manager, Governance & Data Protection Officer, Member Services Officer.

198 Minutes of the Last Meeting

Resolved:

That the Minutes of this Committee held on the 24th September 2019 be approved and confirmed as an accurate record.

199 Quarter 2 Corporate Performance Report

The Governance and Data Protection Officer introduced this item and clarified that he would be overseeing the Report now that the Senior Policy and Scrutiny Officer had left the Council and owing to the cyclic change of Committee Meetings, there had been a shorter turnaround for this report to be produced.

He went onto say that new Key Performance Indicators (KPI's) would be adapted to fit with the new 5 year Corporate Plan in 2020 and he would like to streamline them to avoid duplicity within the Report.

The Report was then opened up to the Committee and the following questions/points were raised:

- A Member asked whether the targets for KPI08 (New Business Support) needed reviewing, since the activity rates remained low. The Economic Development Manager explained that the Council had a Service Level Agreement with the Chamber of Commerce and the KPI was related to the Agreement. A triage service had been set up and met quarterly with the Chamber of Commerce and the number of businesses coming through to that service had increased. It was hoped that the tracking of this service would also be improved. The Economic Development Manager was in weekly communication with the Chamber to work on improving take up levels. The Governance and Data Protection Officer added that the Report was not representative of the exact figures and the next Quarterly Report would contain more accurate figures.
- In response to a question regarding resettlement figures, the Chief Executive confirmed that this was in relation to Syrian families that had been relocated in Ashford as part of a government scheme. The Council were looking at a proposal to extend this scheme to a 5 year programme. A Member asked whether the Council resettled other victims of crime or vulnerable people and it was confirmed that they would, though this happened very rarely.
- A Member enquired about when the Committee could expect reports regarding some of the KPI's and topics that they had requested. The Head of Corporate Policy, ED & Communications advised that they were hoping to bring Homelessness and Housing to the February Committee, and Carbon and Commercialisation would hopefully follow thereafter. She added that it wasn't a good idea to change the KPI's since there was a risk of losing trends. The Chairman added that the KPI's were satisfactory as they were, but some more background information when receiving reports would be beneficial.

Resolved

That the report be received and noted.

200 Future Reviews and Report Tracker

The Compliance and Data Protection Manager introduced this item and explained that some updates had been added since the agenda was published. These included the Homelessness Reduction Act and Carbon Neutrality.

The Chairman commented that the Committee would need to review the Tracker and Programme of Work, and decide which topics to retain and bring forward for the coming year.

Resolved:

That the report be received and noted.

201 Resolution to exclude the press and public

That pursuant to Section 100A of the Local Government Act 1972, members of the press and public be excluded during consideration of this item as it is likely that there would be disclosure of exempt information as defined in Paragraph 3 of Part 1 of Schedule 12A of the Local Government Act 1972 where in the circumstances the public interest in maintaining the exemption outweighs the public interest in disclosing the information.

202 Ashford College Update Presentation

The Committee then considered the exempt presentation and the Chief Executive and Economic Development Manager answered questions from Members.

Queries concerning these minutes? Please contact
membersservices@ashford.gov.uk

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