

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 **21st January 2020**

Present:

Cllr. Ovenden (Chairman)

Cllrs. Burgess, Farrell, Forest, Harman, Iliffe, C. Suddards.

In accordance with Procedure Rule 1.2 (iii) Cllrs C. Suddards and Cllr. Harman attended as Substitute Members for Cllr. Chilton and Cllr. Ledger respectively.

Apologies:

Cllrs. Chilton, Krause, Ledger, Michael, Mulholland.

Also Present:

Cllr. P. Feacey.

Head of Corporate Policy, ED & Communications, Compliance and Data Protection Manager, Senior Accountant, Policy & Scrutiny Officer, Member Services Officer.

268 Minutes of the Last Meeting

Resolved:

That the Minutes of the Meeting of this Committee held on the 12th November 2019 be approved and confirmed as an accurate record.

269 Report of Budget Scrutiny Task Group

The Policy and Scrutiny Officer introduced this item. She explained that the Task Group had initially met in December and decided to scrutinise certain departments in more detail and these included Planning, Commercial Property and Finance. The final meeting took place last week and the Task Group had put forward six recommendations for the Committee to approve to go to Cabinet on the 27th February 2020. A further two recommendations had been made specifically for the Overview and Scrutiny Committee.

The Chairman asked if the Committee were happy to accept all of the Recommendations and they unanimously agreed.

Resolved

That the report be received and noted.

270 O&S Work Programme 2020/2021

The Policy and Scrutiny Officer spoke about the new Work Programme for Overview and Scrutiny. Each year the Programme was revised and Members had the opportunity to provide suggestions for new topics going forward, and remove topics that may no longer be relevant. Further to this, the Policy Team had reviewed the process for selection, and they had developed a new Selection Matrix that presented a series of statements allowing users to input a score from 1-5 depending on how fitting the statement was in relation to the topic being considered.

The Chairman commented that the Matrix was a positive addition and it allowed users to prioritise suggestions. He went on to say that sometimes the reports provided to the Committee from Officers conveyed all the information and answers that the Committee requested, so no further scrutiny was necessary.

The report was then opened up to the Committee and the following questions and points were raised: -

- In response to a question asking who decided the score using the Matrix, the Policy and Scrutiny Officer explained that Officers would initially consult and then feedback their results to the Committee for their views. The Compliance and Data Protection Manager added that no subject was off limits, and Members were very welcome to undertake their own use of the Matrix, which would be interesting to assess any differing results.
- A Member proposed the topic relating to Elwick Place be removed, since this was originally his suggestion and was no longer relevant.
- The Committee agreed that it would be useful for all Members, including the Chairman, to assess topics using the Selection Matrix, especially since some issues were more pertinent to certain Members than others.

Resolved:

- That**
- i) the report be received and noted.**
 - ii) the Committee consider any items that they would like to be assessed via the Selection Matrix and these be brought back to a future meeting.**

Queries concerning these minutes? Please contact
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