

## **COMMUNITIES & HOUSING SCRUTINY COMMITTEE**

Meeting: 29 October 2018

At: 6.00 pm

### **PRESENT**

Councillor Christine Corris (Chair) in the chair; Councillors Laura Booth, Angie Clark, Dickie Davies, Paul Hadfield, Colin MacAlister, Adrian Nottingham and Andy Sorton.

### **1. MINUTES**

The Minutes (copies of which had been circulated) of the meeting held on 30 July 2018 were approved as a correct record and signed by the Chair.

### **2. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

Councillors and Officers were invited to declare any interests which they may have had in any of the agenda items for the meeting.

No declarations of interest were made.

### **3. CALL-IN**

There were no call-in items to consider.

### **4. MEDIUM TERM FINANCIAL PLAN - IMPLEMENTATION PLANS**

The Cabinet Member for Communities and Housing submitted a report (copies of which had been circulated) seeking the views of the Scrutiny Committee in respect to the strategic direction of travel outlined in the overall report and across the five themes and to comment specifically on the proposals presented in the report relevant to the remit of the Scrutiny Committee.

The following comments were made/issues raised:-

- Concern was expressed at the proposal that the waste collection calendar would only be available online in the future.
- The consultation and discussions being held with trade unions in respect to any proposed staffing reductions.
- Councillors requested that further information be circulated in respect to the evidence base for proposals relating to grass cutting and street cleaning frequencies. It was suggested that where possible, wild flowers be planted to mitigate the impact of reduced grass verge cutting.
- The Committee discussed the profoundly difficult situation that the Council faced due to the cuts in Local Government Funding resulting in a saving requirement of £47m in the forthcoming financial year's acknowledging that very difficult decisions would need to be made which would affect the most vulnerable people in the community.
- Concern was expressed in respect to proposals relating to the removal of Highways delegated budgets from Area Committees. A number of Councillors expressed the

view that the Area Committee should retain this budget. Whilst acknowledging that some wards carried over funding on a regular basis, Councillors also recounted efforts they had made to progress schemes that had taken a considerable amount of time which made the spending of the budget problematic at times.

- It was suggested, and a number of Councillors agreed, that if the Area Committees retained the Highways delegated budget in the future any monies left over or not committed at the end of the financial year be clawed back.
- The Chair commented that she welcomed the proposals relating to fees and charges although she did express concern in respect to the proposals relating to public realm and asked that alternatives be explored.

RESOLVED – That the report be noted and that the comments be referred to the Cabinet Member (Communities and Housing) for consideration.

## **5. ENVIRONMENTAL CAMPAIGN – PROGRESS REPORT**

The Corporate Director for Place Management and Regeneration submitted a report (copies of which had been circulated) outlining the actions and effects of the Environmental and Recycling campaign which had been formed as part of the Cabinet's response to the Medium Term Financial Plan 2017.

The following comments were made/issues raised:-

- Stockport's communications team had worked in partnership with Keep Britain Tidy to deliver a series of communication focused initiatives centred around improving environmental awareness. Councillors welcomed the findings which suggested residents want to do the right thing and already take pride in their surroundings, the campaign aimed to further support this behaviour and celebrate the good work already undertaken by our communities.
- Work undertaken with residents to encourage those residents who used communal bin facilities to increase their recycling efforts.

RESOLVED – That the report be noted.

## **6. PORTFOLIO PERFORMANCE AND RESOURCES - MID-YEAR REPORT**

The Corporate Director for Place Management and Regeneration submitted a report (copies of which had been circulated) detailing the mid-year portfolio performance and resources report for the Communities and Housing Portfolio.

The following comments were made/issues raised:-

- The commitment to build 600 affordable homes over two years was on target with 300 being forecast to be completed this municipal year.
- Councillors welcomed the start of the accelerated tree-planting programme that had begun across the borough. The first tree was planted last week and another 450 trees will be planted along highways across Stockport over the winter planting season.
- Fly-tipping incidents continued to see an upward trend over the last four years and investigations were being carried out to identify hotspots where regular fly tipping occurs across the Borough.

- Councillors expressed concern in respect to C&H2.2 and C&H2.3, litter and detritus on the highways, both of which were below target. Councillors were informed that these concerns were being discussed with TLC in order to put in place actions to bring the scores into line with the targets.
- Councillors welcomed the information supplied relating to empty property statistics which were excellent.
- Opportunities to develop lessons learnt from the Brinnington Regeneration Scheme throughout the rest of the Borough.

RESOLVED – That the report noted.

## **7. SAFER STOCKPORT PARTNERSHIP - ANNUAL REPORT 2017/18**

The Deputy Chief Executive submitted a report (copies of which had been circulated) outlining the key achievements of partnership working and across partner organisations against SSP Themes and Priorities.

The Cabinet Member (Communities and Housing) and Superintendent Emma Taylor, Greater Manchester Police answered Councillors' questions in relation to the report.

RESOLVED – That the report be noted.

## **8. GAMBLING POLICY**

The Corporate Director for Place Management and Regeneration submitted a report (copies of which had been circulated) providing an update on the review of the Stockport Council Gambling Policy – Statement of Licensing Principles. The Corporate Director report that the policy had also been considered by the Licensing, Environment and Safety Committee and that it would be submitted to the next meeting of the Cabinet for approval.

RESOLVED – That the report be noted.

## **9. WATER CHARGES COLLECTION BY STOCKPORT HOMES ON BEHALF OF UNITED UTILITIES.**

The Corporate Director for Place Management and Regeneration submitted a report (copies of which had been circulated) reviewing the current arrangements and outlining the terms of a proposed new agreement from April 2019.

RESOLVED – That the report be noted.

## **10. AGENDA PLANNING**

A representative of the Democratic Services Manager submitted a report (copies of which had been circulated) setting out planned agenda items for the Scrutiny Committee's next meeting and any relevant Forward Plan items.

RESOLVED – That the report be noted.

The meeting closed at 7.31 pm