

ECONOMY & REGENERATION SCRUTINY COMMITTEE

Meeting: 1 November 2018

At: 6.00 pm

PRESENT

Councillor Tom Dowse (Chair) in the chair; Councillor Suzanne Wyatt (Vice-Chair);
Councillors Roy Driver, Graham Greenhalgh, Philip Harding, Colin MacAlister,
Amanda Peers and Charlie Stewart.

1. MINUTES

The Minutes (copies of which had been circulated) of the meeting held on 20 September 2018 were approved as a correct record and signed by the Chair.

2. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

No declarations of interest were made.

3. CALL-IN

There were no call-in items to consider.

4. EXCLUSION OF THE PUBLIC AND THE PUBLIC INTEREST TEST

RESOLVED – That it is in the public interest to exclude the public during that part of the consideration of agenda item 5 – ‘Town Centre Regeneration – Merseyway Redevelopment’ which contains information ‘not for publication’ in Appendices 1-7 by virtue of Category 3 ‘Information relating to the financial or business affairs of any particular person (including the authority)’ as set out in the Local Government Act 1972.

5. TOWN CENTRE REGENERATION - MERSEYWAY REDEVELOPMENT

Consideration was given to a joint report of the Corporate Director for Place Management and Regeneration (copies of which had been circulated) updating the Scrutiny Committee on the redevelopment strategy for the Merseyway shopping centre. The report provided an overview of the work undertaken since approval at the meeting of the Cabinet held on 19 December 2017, set out the rationale for the review of the original strategy and provided summaries of the key projects being taken forward.

(Note: the report included ‘not for publication’ appendices that had been circulated to Members of the Scrutiny Committee only).

The Cabinet Member for Economy and Regeneration (Councillor Kate Butler) attended the meeting to respond to Members’ questions.

A Member requested a copy of the market research undertaken.

RESOLVED – That the report be noted and regular reports be submitted to the Scrutiny Committee on the redevelopment strategy for Merseyway.

6. MEDIUM TERM FINANCIAL PLAN CABINET RESPONSE: OUR BUDGET CHOICES FOR 2019/20

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

The following comments were made/issues raised:-

- The first two themes ‘Getting more out of our spending’ and ‘Improving citizen experience’ could be diametrically opposed to each other in that it could be more expensive to provide a better customer experience.
- The contracts offered to charities had been continually cut by the Council. Staff turnover was therefore high in the charitable sector which affected the quality of the service provided. It was essential that the Council commissioned the best services from the best provider.
- Some of the issues raised, such as developing the Digital by Design work and reductions in the Stockport Local Assistance Scheme, would affect the most vulnerable people in society. Councillors assisted residents, on a number of occasions, reporting issues through the Council’s website.
- A Member felt that the Council’s procurement policies should not be seen as a means of passing on Government cuts in public expenditure.

RESOLVED – That the report be noted.

7. PORTFOLIO PERFORMANCE AND RESOURCES - MID YEAR REPORT

The Corporate Director for Place Management and Regeneration submitted a report (copies of which had been circulated) setting out the Mid-Year Portfolio Performance and Resource Report which summarised progress in delivering the portfolio priorities, reform programme and other key projects in the first half of the year, with a particular focus on the second quarter (July to September 2018). The report also included forecast performance and financial data for the Portfolio, along with an update on the portfolio savings programme.

The report was based on the 2018/19 Portfolio Performance and Resource Agreement. This had been considered by the Scrutiny Committee on 5 July 2018 and approved by the Cabinet on 17 July 2018.

The Cabinet Member for Economy and Regeneration (Councillor Kate Butler) attended the meeting to respond to Members’ questions.

The following comments were made/issues raised:-

- An update was requested on the work of the Work and Skills Commission which had met the first time on 31 October 2018.
- In response to a Member's question on rail performance, the Scrutiny Committee was advised that the Council was doing everything it could to monitor the situation by holding regular meetings with Northern Rail and there was the opportunity for Councillors to raise issues on rail performance with the Council's representatives on Transport for Greater Manchester.
- Footfall in the market had dropped in Quarter 2 in common with most other town centres because of the hot weather.
- The Corporate Director undertook to keep the Scrutiny Committee updated on the Government's announcement of additional funding to deal with the problem of potholes.
- Work on Stockport's Local Plan continued and the Scrutiny Committee would be updated when there were any further announcements with regard to the Greater Manchester Spatial Framework.

RESOLVED – That the report be noted.

8. WELL MANAGED HIGHWAYS CODE OF PRACTICE - FUNCTIONAL NETWORK HIERARCHY REVIEW

The Corporate Director for Place Management and Regeneration submitted a report (copies of which had been circulated) setting out a review of the Functional Network Hierarchy which identified the relative importance of a section of adopted highway and so the maintenance levels and inspection levels it would need to receive. The final adopted version of the Functional Hierarchy would be used to review the Resilience Network and the Gritting Network in order to ensure that the routes were receiving appropriate maintenance regimes.

The Cabinet Member for Economy and Regeneration (Councillor Kate Butler) attended the meeting to respond to Members' questions.

RESOLVED – That the Cabinet be recommended to approve and adopt the amendments to the Functional Network Hierarchy.

9. 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 Committee's next meeting and Forward Plan items which fell within the remit of the Scrutiny Committee.

RESOLVED – That the report be noted.

The meeting closed at 8.55 pm