

**MINUTES** of a meeting of the **IMPROVEMENT AND SCRUTINY COMMITTEE – RESOURCES** held at County Hall, Matlock on 31 May 2018.

**PRESENT**

Councillor T A Kemp (in the Chair)

Councillors J Boulton, C Moesby, J Perkins (substitute member) A Stevenson Mrs J Twigg, M Wall and Ms A Western.

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors B Bingham and G Wharmby

Also in attendance - Councillor P Murray.

**06/18**      **MINUTES**      **RESOLVED** that the minutes of the meeting of the Improvement and Scrutiny Committee – Resources held on 15 March 2018 be confirmed as a correct record and signed by the Chairman.

**07/18**      **DISCUSSION WITH THE CABINET MEMBER FOR COUNCIL SERVICES** Councillor A Foster, Cabinet Member, attended the meeting to discuss current issues within the portfolio.

Councillor Foster updated the Committee on recent staffing issues and new appointments. The recruitment of additional apprentices was highlighted.

Members were informed of the current situation relating to Derbyshire Developments Limited and it was suggested that further discussions could be held on this at the next meeting.

Councillor Foster reported on the One Public Estate (OPE) programme and projects that the Authority was undertaking. Progress on the OPE Buxton Health Care project would be reported to the Committee in due course. Work was also being carried to update the facilities at County Hall, in particular, the Council Chamber.

The transition to the Office365 system had been successfully carried out, though there were issues with the transfer of mobile devices which have since been resolved.

Councillor Foster highlighted the success of the Legal Services Division in attaining the re-accreditation of Lexcel.

One growing area of concern was the employee awareness of mental health, which required addressing. A programme was currently ongoing which

everyone was encouraged to take part in, however, further work was required in understanding this issue.

Members made a number of comments and asked questions which were duly noted or answered by the Cabinet Member and the officers present.

The Chairman thanked Councillor Foster for her informative presentation.

**08/18      GENDER PAY GAP** Emma Crapper, Director of Organisational development and Policy and Imelda Green, attended the meeting and gave a brief presentation updating members on the Gender Pay Gap.

Imelda informed Members of the regulations pertaining to the gender pay gap, the Council's data and the approach the Council was taking to tackle the pay gap. Details of how other County Councils compared, would be circulated to Members.

The Chairman thanked Emma and Imelda for their interesting and informative presentation.

**09/18      BUDGET SCRUTINY** Peter Handford, the Director of Finance and ICT, attended the meeting and provided Members with information relating to budget governance and monitoring.

The Chairman thanked Mr Handford for his presentation.

**10/18      GOVERNMENT RESPONSE TO SELECT COMMITTEE REPORT ON THE EFFECTIVENESS OF LOCAL AUTHORITY OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY COMMITTEES** The Communities and Local Government Select Committee had published its report on the Effectiveness of Local Authority Overview and Scrutiny Committees on 11 December 2017. The inquiry was initially launched in January 2017 but was delayed due to the dissolution of Parliament and the General Election. The inquiry was relaunched in September 2017, taking account of the wealth of written evidence provided by councils, officers, members and stakeholders prior to the election, along with other evidence gathered from September 2017 onwards.

The Government had responded to the Select Committee report in March 2018, and details on the recommendations it had accepted, and those it did not were highlighted. The report was welcomed by Members of the Committee.

**RESOLVED** to (1) note the report of the Communities and Local Government Select Committee on the Effectiveness of Local Overview and Scrutiny Committee and the Government's response: and

(2) note that revised scrutiny guidance will be issued by the Government in the light of the Select Committee report and that the County Council will be required to review its Scrutiny function, as appropriate, on the publication of the revised guidance.

**11/18      REVIEW OF ORGANISATIONAL PROPERTY** Members were informed of the progress made by the working group conducting the review of operational property. The working group had encountered some delays and it was suggested that this review could be revisited at some point in the future.

Members asked to be kept informed of any impending disposal of County Council properties or sites, particularly interest expressed about the Duffield property.

**RESOLVED** to note that the review of operational property was ongoing.

**12/18      WORK PROGRAMME** The following items were proposed for the next meeting:-

- Financial timetable
- Derbyshire Developments Limited
- The Registration Service
- A scoping report on staff awareness of Mental Health