

MINUTES of a meeting of the **IMPROVEMENT AND SCRUTINY COMMITTEE – RESOURCES** held at County Hall, Matlock on 14 March 2019.

PRESENT

Councillor T A Kemp (in the Chair)

Councillors B Bingham, J Boulton, A Stevenson, S Swann (Substitute Member) M Wall, Ms A Western and G Wharmby

Apologies for absence were received from Councillor C Moesby and J Twigg

01/19 **MINUTES** **RESOLVED** that the minutes of the meeting of the Improvement and Scrutiny Committee – Resources held on 6 December 2018 be confirmed as a correct record and signed by the Chairman.

02/19 **DISCUSSION WITH THE CABINET MEMBER FOR STRATEGIC LEADERSHIP, CULTURE AND TOURISM** Councillor Barry Lewis attended the meeting to discuss current issues within his portfolio. Topics included public engagement regarding the transfer of libraries to community management, partnership work to promote Derbyshire as a destination for visitors and businesses, and forthcoming anniversaries of key cultural and heritage sites and organisations.

No firm date has been given for when the Authority will be informed about the allocation of funds following the Government's Fair Funding review and retention of business rates. Cllr Lewis had met with James Brokenshire MP to highlight the pressures faced by Derbyshire, and local authorities in general.

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

03/19 **REVISIONS TO THE COUNCIL'S CONSTITUTION.** Janie Berry, Director of Legal Services attended the meeting and delivered a presentation about recent revisions to the Council's Constitution.

The revised Constitution would focus on streamlining the Council's decision making principles, whilst maintaining a robust governance framework that delivers a commitment to integrity and transparency.

The Standards Committee has begun the process of reviewing the refreshed terms of reference from the various council committees and will conclude its work programme and make their final recommendation to Full Council in May 2019.

Members asked a series of questions in response to the presentation. A particular line of enquiry concerned the rationale for the dissolution of the Regulatory, Licensing and Appeals Committee. Members asked about consultation undertaken in relation to the proposal and how the work currently undertaken by that Committee would be delivered.

RESOLVED that the Chairman would write to the Director of Legal Services (on behalf of the Resources Committee) to request clarification regarding the rationale for the dissolution of the Regulatory, Licensing and Appeals Committee and the proposals for dealing with the work currently undertaken by that Committee.

04/19 DRAFT DERBYSHIRE ENERGY STRATEGY – JOINT RESOURCES AND PLACES IMPROVEMENT & SCRUTINY WORKING GROUP PROGRESS REPORT. Members received a progress report about the Committees involvement in the development of the draft Derbyshire Energy Strategy.

A joint working group made up of members from the Resources and Places Improvement and Scrutiny Committees had considered the vision and priorities identified in the draft strategy and indicated their support for the approach taken. They also received a briefing about potential actions relating to each of the priorities and an overview of the different energy sources. Feedback provided by the Working Group will contribute to the further development of the Energy Strategy.

RESOLVED to note the progress report

05/19 REVIEW OF INITIATIVES TO PROMOTE STAFF WELLBEING AND GOOD MENTAL HEALTH – FINAL REPORT. The Committee received the final report for the review of initiatives to promote staff wellbeing and good mental health.

The Members on the Working Group were Cllrs Kemp (Chair), Boulton, Twigg, Bingham and Wall. The aim of the review was to consider what the Council was currently doing to promote staff wellbeing and good mental health, and to consider the effectiveness of the approach. It also explored opportunities to better support staff (especially those with mental ill-health or poor wellbeing) to remain in and thrive at work.

The key findings of the review were detailed in the report and the following recommendations were made:

1. That Cabinet notes the report and that the Improvement and Scrutiny Committee endorses the recently developed Workplace Health and Wellbeing Strategy.

2. That Cabinet notes that the Improvement and Scrutiny Committee endorses “a whole organisation” preventative approach to mental health.
3. That the Cabinet Member for Council Services exhorts the Health and Wellbeing Strategy Implementation Group (or a dedicated subgroup of it) to develop an implementation plan specifically for mental health and that, following on from this, a Mental Health Steering Group is established to oversee its sustained delivery.
4. That during the development of the implementation plan, in Recommendation 3, the benefits and feasibility of the following initiatives are vigorously explored:
 - The development of a DCC Mental Health Policy.
 - Improved staff engagement and communication.
 - Mental health training for all staff.
 - Training for managers on empathetic and compassionate leadership skills.
 - Continued development and promotion of a network of Mental Health First Aiders and Mental Health Champions across the authority.
 - Sustained delivery of awareness campaigns such as “Time to Change” and “5 Ways to Wellbeing”.
 - Elected Member Champions.
 - Elected Member sessions/training on mental health and suicide prevention.
 - Adoption of the Derbyshire Healthy Workplaces approach

RESOLVED to approve the report and for the Chairman to present it to Cabinet, subject to the Improvement and Scrutiny Officer making amendments identified during the meeting.

06/19 REGULAR COMMITTEE UPDATE ON FINANCIAL AND BUDGETARY POSITION The Director of Finance and ICT, Peter Handford, attended the meeting to provide an update on the financial position. Work was underway to assess the medium term challenges and how budget reductions could be met. This would be reported to Cabinet by July 2019. The Government was exploring the principles that will shape the Fair Funding Review and business rates retention figures were still to be determined.

RESOLVED to note to the update.

07/19 WORK PROGRAMME The Chairman invited the Committee to suggest topics for inclusion in the work programme. Members expressed an interest in considering emerging infrastructure and investment opportunities and it was suggested that a briefing about the work of “Midlands Connect” would be beneficial.