

MINUTES of a meeting of the **IMPROVEMENT AND SCRUTINY COMMITTEE – RESOURCES** held at County Hall, Matlock on 15 March 2018.

PRESENT

Councillor T A Kemp (in the Chair)

Councillors L Grooby (substitute member) C Moesby, S Swann, Mrs J Twigg, Ms A Western and G Wharmby.

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors B Bingham. A Stevenson and M Wall,

01/18 MINUTES RESOLVED that the minutes of the meeting of the Improvement and Scrutiny Committee – Resources held on 7 December 2017 be confirmed as a correct record and signed by the Chairman.

02/18 DISCUSSION WITH THE CABINET MEMBER FOR STRATEGIC LEADERSHIP AND CULTURE & TOURISM Councillor B Lewis, Cabinet Member, attended the meeting to discuss current issues within the portfolio.

In relation to the Value for Money Board, Peter Handford, Strategic Director for Finance and ICT, informed members that some progress had been made, with the Terms of Reference having already being agreed by Cabinet, and that a further report would be submitted to Cabinet in the near future outlining how the board would work, including its membership and scope. It was hoped that the inclusion of representatives from the Private Sector would, alongside the input from other agencies and end users help to provide an independent, robust mechanism in relation to the contracts that the Authority procured.

Emma Alexander, Strategic Director, Commissioning Communities and Policy attended the meeting and informed members that on 22 February 2018, Cabinet had considered a report to launch the authority's new enterprising council approach, and had approved proposals which explored the use of new commissioning and delivery models to deliver service priorities and also approved plans to communicate and engage with employees. Work would now continue to move these proposals forward.

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

03/18 CORPORATE PERFORMANCE MANAGEMENT SYSTEM

Esther Croll, Policy Unit, attended the meeting and gave a brief presentation updating members on the Corporate Performance Management System.

Details were given of the key aims and requirements of the system and the procurement exercise that had been undertaken.

A summary was given of the Achieving Performance and Excellence System (APEX), highlighting what it was able deliver:-

- Council and departmental profiles
- 18 themes eg “carers”, “roads and transport”, “wellbeing”.
- CMT dashboards
- 130 key measures over 1600 data items
- Measures updated daily, weekly, monthly, annually
- Benchmarking and trends
- Drill down to underlying data (geographic, organisational)
- Robust Security Model
- User friendly and engaging

It was hoped that this would provide a greater shared understanding of performance across the authority. Esther outlined for members how it was envisaged to move the system forward and of the significant benefits it could provide.

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

The Chair thanked Esther for an interesting and informative presentation.

04/18 CLG SELECT COMMITTEE – INQUIRY INTO LOCAL AUTHORITY SCRUTINY AND GOVERNMENT RESPONSE

The Chairman referred to the government response that had recently been published. It endorsed the principle of points made but suggested items that needed further consideration. He believed that it was sensible to wait and see what was included in the new guidance once published, prior to any discussion amongst the Chairs of the Scrutiny Committees.

Jackie Wardle, Improvement and Scrutiny Officer, informed members that the Health Scrutiny committee had picked up on this some while ago and that a draft report containing all the potential changes and government response had been prepared. Once the new guidance had been received this could be amended as necessary, prior to wider discussion amongst the Scrutiny chairs.

05/18 WORK PROGRAMME Following a request made to elected members for suggestions for future scrutiny reviews, two suggestions had been received.

The first was to review the decision to no longer involve Elected Members in the appeals process in relation to employment appeals and give this responsibility to Strategic Directors or nominees from their senior management teams. It was noted that this was a decision made by the Regulatory Licensing and Appeals Committee, which had included a review of the process once the new arrangements had been in place for a year. With that in mind it was agreed to defer consideration of this issue to a future meeting nearer that time.

The second request was for a review into mental health awareness for DCC staff. It was agreed that there were a number of good initiatives already in place but that these should all be drawn together and that work should commence on a Scoping report to support this review.

Councillor A Foster would attend the next meeting on 31 May to update members on issues within her portfolio.