

MINUTES of a meeting of the **IMPROVEMENT AND SCRUTINY COMMITTEE – RESOURCES** held at County Hall, Matlock on 20 July 2017.

PRESENT

Councillor T A Kemp (in the Chair)

Councillors B Bingham, T Kemp, C Moesby, S Swann, Mrs J Twigg, M Wall, Ms A Western and G Wharmby.

Apologies for absence were received from A Stevenson,

02/17 MINUTES **RESOLVED** that the minutes of the meetings of the Improvement and Scrutiny Committee – Resources held on 8 December 2016 and 7 February 2017 be received.

03/17 DISCUSSION WITH CABINET MEMBER FOR STRATEGIC LEADERSHIP, CULTURE & TOURISM Councillor B Lewis, Cabinet Member, attended the meeting to discuss current issues within the portfolio, including the culture & tourism offer within Derbyshire and beyond and enhancing the links with heritage; the future vision on how the Library and Museum Services would operate; and the Council Plan, which built on the Manifesto commitments and would be submitted to Cabinet shortly.

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

04/17 VALUE FOR MONEY BOARD Councillor Lewis informed the Committee of the proposal to introduce a Value for Money Board whose role would be to scrutinise the contracts that were awarded by the County Council.

The board would be made up of external representatives, including business persons, Chamber of Commerce, the Voluntary Sector, and other interested parties who would be appointed through an advertisement and Interview process and would also include Local Authority representatives. The Board would look at all contracts in terms of performance, robustness, Policy outcomes and savings.

It was anticipated that a detailed report would be submitted to Cabinet in September 2017.

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

05/17 CORPORATE PROPERTY DIVISION - ROLE & RESPONSIBILITIES S Morris, Assistant Director Property Services, provided information on the roles and responsibilities of the Property Division

In summary, the Property Division was divided into two areas, the Corporate Landlord and Property Services. The Corporate Landlord was responsible for properties that were owned, leased or managed by the Council including their operation, disposal, size of portfolio and rationalisation. Property Services was a traded service of engineers, architects and builders that brought income into the authority

The portfolio was vast and varied and included both operational and non operational.

RESOLVED that the information be received.

06/17 REVIEW OF THE COUNCIL'S APPROACH TO THE RATIONALISATION OF OPERATIONAL PROPERTY Members were informed of the scope of a review of the Council's approach to the rationalisation of operational property.

The Council had an extensive property portfolio. To ensure that maximum value was achieved from the Council's assets the Corporate Property Division worked alongside colleagues in the Council and across the wider public and private estate to manage property assets and facilities. Increasingly, this entailed the identification of co-location and joint working opportunities for staff and services to deliver cost savings and more integrated services.

The One Public Estate (OPE) Programme was an initiative developed by the Cabinet Office Government Property Unit and the Local Government Association with the aim of developing greater collaboration between local and central government, and other public and private sector partners. The aim of the programme was to deliver a strategic approach to asset management, getting 'more' from collective assets such as acting as a catalyst for service transformation and the unlocking of land for housing.

The Derbyshire OPE programme included representatives from all 10 local authorities, the Office of the Police and Crime Commissioner, Derbyshire Constabulary, Derbyshire Fire and Rescue, East Midlands Ambulance Service, Community Health Partners and Derby University. The Derbyshire programme had secured OPE funding to undertake a number of public estate reviews and feasibility studies. The Derbyshire OPE steering group had also identified potential projects for future collaborative working. It was anticipated that an OPE bidding round will open in September 17,

following a delay in the programme in the run up to the general election. Further funding maybe available for 2018 and beyond, depending on the outcome of negotiations between the Cabinet Office and the Treasury.

The aim of this Scrutiny review would be to, at a strategic level, consider the Council's approach to operational property rationalisation. It would consider the current systems in place for identifying, prioritising and delivering property rationalisation or redesign projects. It would also seek to learn from the Council's involvement in the Derbyshire OPE programme and identify opportunities to build on the established collaborative working arrangements. Ultimately the review would aim to make recommendations to ensure that there was a sustainable framework in place that would promote collaboration between partners, reduce future liabilities and ensure that the Council's property portfolio was fit for purpose and cost efficient.

During the course of the review evidence will be gathered from numerous sources including

- Director of Property and senior managers;
- D2 Programme Manager
- Director of Finance and ICT;
- Cabinet Member for Council Services ;
- Other Local Authorities and relevant partner organisations as appropriate

A working group would be appointed to undertake the review. The working group would submit progress reports and a final report to the full Committee at the conclusion of the review. It was anticipated that the review will be completed by January 2018.

RESOLVED (1) to to note the scope of the review of the Councils approach to the rationalisation of operational property;

(2) that Roz, Savage, Improvement and Scrutiny Officer contact members for expressions of interest to serve on the working group.

07/17 REVIEW OF BROADBAND ACCESS IN DERBYSHIRE – STATUS REPORT Members were informed of the status of the review of broadband access in Derbyshire.

In July 2016 the Resources Improvement and Scrutiny Committee began a review of broadband access in Derbyshire. The working group Members at that time were Councillors Moesby (Chair), Lauro, Booth, Marshall-Clarke and Kemp.

The main objectives of the review were to consider:

- How well rural communities were connected;
- How businesses were benefitting from the Digital Derbyshire programme
- What plans were in place to provide affordable alternative solutions to rural areas where the broadband services had not been upgraded.

The working group held a series of meetings with the Digital Derbyshire Programme Manager, met with BT's Regional Partnership Director and Contract Manager and consulted all Derbyshire parish councils about access to broadband in their areas.

In the lead up to the 2017 Derbyshire County Council Elections work on the review was paused. The information that had been gathered up to that point has been collated in the interim report which was attached at Appendix 1 to the report. As the review was still ongoing, the report did not draw any conclusions or make any recommendations; its purpose was to provide an overview for the new Members on the Committee.

At Appendix 2 to the report, the Digital Derbyshire Programme Manager had provided a report which set out the latest position of the fibre broadband programme and addresses some of the issues raised in the working group's interim report.

RESOLVED (1) to note the evidence gathered so far by the review working group and the information provided by the Digital Derbyshire Programme Manager as appended to the report; and

(2) that further consideration as to how best to progress this review be discussed at a future meeting.

08/17 WORK PROGRAMME 2017/18 RESOLVED (1) to note the role and remit of the Resources Improvement and Scrutiny Committee.

(2) that should members identify any issues that they wished to be included in the Committee's 2017/18 work programme, that they submit these to the Improvement and Scrutiny Team on the Scrutiny Review Proposal form; and

(3) that any proposals for reviews that were received will be considered further and a draft work programme would be submitted to the Committee for approval at its meeting in September 2017.