

Present: Councillor Gary Hewson (*in the Chair*),
Councillor Tony Speakman, Councillor Paul Gowen,
Councillor Pat Vaughan, Councillor Helena Mair and
Councillor Liz Maxwell

Apologies for Absence: Councillor Thomas Dyer and Councillor Ronald Hills

1. Confirmation of Minutes - 23 March 2017

RESOLVED that the minutes of the meeting held on 23 March 2017 be confirmed.

2. Matters Arising

Minute No 81: Update- Transport Hub

The Chair advised that a request made at the previous meeting for the target programme of Transport Hub works to be circulated to members of Performance Scrutiny Committee in order for them to monitor progress was still awaited.

RESOLVED that should this information not be received before the next meeting of Performance Scrutiny Committee, the Strategic Director of Major Developments be requested to attend the meeting to advise further.

3. To Receive Minutes of Housing Scrutiny Sub Committee - 13 March 2017

RESOLVED that the minutes of Housing Scrutiny Sub Committee held on 13 March 2017 be received.

4. Declarations of Interest

Councillor Pat Vaughan declared a Personal Interest with regard to the agenda item titled 'Financial Performance - Outturn 2016/17'.

Reason: His grand-daughter worked in the Finance Section at the City of Lincoln Council.

Councillor Helena Mair declared a Disclosable Pecuniary Interest with regard to the agenda item titled 'Strategic Plan Progress - Outturn 2016/17'.

Reason: Her husband worked as a local architect involved in the Lincoln Transport Hub Project and the Central Market. In the event that any discussion on these matters took place during the course of the meeting she would withdraw from the room at that stage. No such discussion took place, therefore she remained in the meeting.

5. Central Lincolnshire Joint Strategic Planning Committee/ Local Plan Annual Report 2016/17

Toby Forbes-Turner, Principal Planning Policy Officer, presented a report to Performance Scrutiny Committee detailing progress made on the Central

Lincolnshire Local Plan by the Central Lincolnshire Joint Strategic Planning Committee (CLJSPC), covering the following main points:

- The Central Lincolnshire Joint Strategic Planning Committee at its meeting held on 24 April 2017 adopted the Central Lincolnshire Local Plan, together with associated policies/maps.
- The new Central Lincolnshire Local Plan replaced the City of Lincoln Local Plan (1998), becoming part of the statutory development plan for the City alongside adopted Lincolnshire Minerals and Waste Local Plans.
- All future planning applications in the City would be assessed by Planning Committee against the 57 policies contained within the new Local Plan.
- Overall, the Local Plan aimed to facilitate the sustainable growth of Central Lincolnshire area, whilst protecting what made Central Lincolnshire special.
- By adopting the Local Plan, the City would have a clear and robust policy document setting out its vision, objectives, planning policies and sites for future growth as well as sites for protection.
- Officers would now review all of its currently adopted Supplementary Planning Guidance (SPG's) following adoption of the new Local Plan as soon as reasonably practical to do so.
- CLJSPC had agreed a revised budget involving partner contributions of £98,900 going forward for the next 3 years covering 2017/18 through to 2019/20, to reflect the focus of the Team on monitoring the Local Plan. This required less resourcing compared to its production.
- The new Local Plan proposed 37,000 new houses to be built across the Central Lincolnshire area between the years of 2012-2036. There was already in existence 5 years' supply of housing land across Central Lincolnshire, therefore we were in a good position for robust decision making across the period of the plan.
- Hard copies of the new Local Plan were available for distribution to all Planning Committee members.

Members discussed the content of the report in further detail, raising the following questions which received responses from officers:

- Question: £98,000 seemed a great deal of money to cover Local Plan monitoring. Who did the monitoring officers report to/were sanctions imposed if the plan was not implemented?
- Response: The £98,000 flat line budget was to be used to carry out necessary work and would be kept in reserve for this purpose. The Principal Planning Policy Officer represented the Chief Executives of both the City of Lincoln Council and North Kesteven Council on the Central Lincolnshire Planning Group. Sanctions would not be imposed. Monitoring of the Local Plan was however a complex area of work, important to ensure it was being delivered in accordance with all 57 policies across the Central Lincolnshire planning region. Developers were also required to play a part to make sure it was fit for purpose and could be adapted if necessary to change.
- Question: What would happen if one of the districts failed to deliver affordable housing?
- Response: The scope of the CLJSPC to deliver the plan incorporated affordable housing as a component part.
- Question: Did Lincolnshire County Council still contribute to the Local Plan budget?

- Response: Financial support from the County had now ceased although it was still maintaining officer support.
- Question: Was council representation at Leaders meetings still taking place in respect of the Local Plan?
- Response: Yes. Myself as Principal Planning Policy Officer and head of the CLJSPC reported through to the Strategic Director of Communities and Environment.

The Chair highlighted the importance of the CLJSPC being scrutinised by Committee in order that members had an opportunity to offer input into the Local Plan. Toby Forbes-Turner, Principal Planning Policy Officer, agreed to look into the logistics of this matter.

RESOLVED that the Annual Report as a fair summary of activity of the CLJSPC during 2016/17 be noted by members.

6. Vision 2020 Reporting to Performance Scrutiny Committee

Martin Walmsley, Interim Assistant Director, Strategic Development:

- a. presented to Performance Scrutiny Committee the proposed reporting arrangements for Vision 2020 projects
- b. advised that Vision 2020 approved by Council on 10 January 2017 contained four strategic priorities as detailed at paragraph 3.1 of the report, as well as a strand focusing on high performing services containing a number of actions under each priority to be delivered between 2017 and 2020, to work towards delivering Lincoln's ambitious future
- c. outlined at paragraph 4.2 of the report details of vision groups created to meet monthly to monitor the day-to-day progress of the projects, chaired by a member of the Corporate Management Team to act as champion for that strategic priority
- d. recommended that these projects be reported to Performance Scrutiny Committee at a rate of one strategic priority per quarter, to enable a specific detailed focus on one topic area at a time, whilst ensuring all four strategic priorities were reported within a one year period
- e. detailed the scheduled timetable for reporting into Performance Scrutiny Committee for 2017/18 at paragraph 4.2 of the report, which had been aligned as much as possible to portfolio holder reporting dates this year, and much closer in the municipal year 2018/19 year once embedded
- f. requested members' comments on the content of the report.

Members queried how the new reporting arrangements would affect Chairs reports into Council.

Martin Walmsley, Interim Assistant Director, Strategic Development agreed to speak to the City Solicitor to confirm the protocol for a definitive route for these reports.

RESOLVED that these reporting arrangements be agreed and incorporated into the Performance Scrutiny Committee forward plan.

7. Financial Performance - Outturn 2016/17

The Financial Services Manager:

- a) presented a report to provide a review of the key budget risk assessments and the provisional financial outturn position on the Council's revenue and capital budgets for 2016/17 including:
 - The General Fund
 - The Housing Revenue Account
 - City Maintenance Services
 - Capital Programmes
- b) provided members with a summary of actual income and expenditure compared to the revised budget and how any surpluses had been allocated to reserves
- c) gave details of variances to the General Fund forecast, Housing Revenue Accounts, Housing Repairs Service and Capital programmes as detailed within the appendices to the report
- d) reported that the financial outturn was still subject to audit by KPMG, the council's external auditors
- e) invited members' questions and comments.

Members considered the content of the report, asked questions and received relevant responses from officers as follows:

- Question: Had the £24m remaining in the housing capital programme budget now been spent?
- Response: This sum of money was likely to be spent within the year as part of the new housing build programme.
- Question: What impact would the greater uptake in the council house 'right to buy' scheme have on running the new build housing scheme as a business?
- Response: It was difficult to predict how many 'right to buy' sales there would be and also out of our control, being a government initiative. There were 66 sales in 2016/17 which was more than in previous years.
- Question: It was disappointing to see a loss of £93,000 income in relation to problems with the Yarborough Leisure Centre contract.
- Response: Negotiations were still ongoing between all parties to come up with a viable solution, these issues may result in arbitration measures.

RESOLVED that

1. The provisional 2016/17 financial outturn for the General Fund, Housing Revenue Account, Housing Repairs Service and Capital Programmes as set out in sections 3 – 7 of the report, and in particular the reasons for any variances be noted.
2. The proposed transfers to General Fund earmarked reserves as detailed in paragraphs 3.6, 3.8 and 3.10 of the report be noted.

3. The proposed transfer to HRA earmarked reserves in paragraph 4.3 of the report be noted.
4. The financial changes to both the General Investment Programme and the Housing Investment Programme (paragraphs 7.3, 7.10 and 7.11) that were above the 10% budget variance limit delegated to the Chief Finance Officer be noted.
5. The nature and current level of earmarked reserves and in-year movements between revenue, as set out Appendix G of the report, prior to any further allocations being approved by the Executive be noted.

(Councillor Vaughan left the meeting at this point to attend another prior engagement.)

8. Treasury Management Stewardship and Actual Prudential Indicators Report 2016/17 (Outturn)

The Financial Services Manager:

- a. presented a report covering the treasury management activities and the actual prudential and treasury indicators for 2016/17
- b. advised that the annual Treasury Management Stewardship report was a requirement of the Council's reporting procedures due to regulations issued under the Local Government Act 2003 and met the requirements of both the CIPFA Code of Practice on Treasury Management (the Code) and the CIPFA Prudential Code for Capital Finance in Local Authorities (the Prudential Code)
- c. gave a summary of performance against the Treasury Management Strategy 2016/17
- d. invited members' questions and comments.

Members discussed the content of the report in further detail.

RESOLVED that:

1. The actual prudential indicators contained within Appendices A and B of the report be noted and referred to Executive for review prior to recommending to Council for approval.
2. The Annual Treasury Management report for 2015/16 be noted and referred to Executive for review.
3. Officers be congratulated on their excellent work with Treasury Management.

9. Strategic Plan Progress - Outturn 2016/17

The Financial Services Manager:

- a) presented a report updating members on the progress of strategic projects against their milestones for the final quarter of 2016/17 and a summary of the projects delivered during the year
- b) advised that of the 17 strategic projects currently being monitored by Strategic Plan Implementation Team (SPIT), 13 projects were currently on track in terms of their physical and financial milestones and risk profiles, a further 6 projects had been completed and were currently awaiting a Post Implementation Review (PIR) to be submitted and signed off by SPIT, and one PIR had been submitted but had not yet been reviewed
- c) advised that no projects were off track in terms of all three of the areas of monitoring; physical progress, financial position or risk analysis
- d) reported that there were 4 projects currently off track in either one or two of the areas of monitoring; SPIT had concluded that there were no projects of sufficient concern to bring to CMT's attention
- e) gave details of new projects and completed projects as detailed at paragraphs 3 and 4 of the report
- f) updated members on the following two mega projects:
 - Western Growth Corridor
 - Transport Hub
- g) further highlighted the work of the Section 106 Group and strategic project achievements at paragraphs 6 and 7 of the report
- h) reported on the current review of the role of SPIT following the successful launch of the Council's Strategic Plan Vision 2020 in early 2017 the outcome of which would be reported to members in quarter 1
- i) invited members' questions and comments.

Members discussed the content of the report in further detail.

RESOLVED that the progress made in delivery of strategic projects be noted.

10. **Strategic Risk Register - Quarterly Review**

The Financial Services Manager:

- a) provided members with a status report on the revised Strategic Risk Register as at the end of the fourth quarter 2016/17 as detailed at Appendix A to the report
- b) advised that since reporting in February 2017, the Strategic Risk Register had been reviewed and updated identifying positive movement in its status
- c) summarised the key movements within the register
- d) invited members' questions and comments.

Members queried why risk numbers 1 and 3 had not achieved target.

The Financial Services Manager confirmed that the target score in relation to Risk 1 to engage with the Council's strategic partners had now increased following the meeting of the Vision Group in May. In relation to Risk 3 to ensure compliance with statutory duties and appropriate governance arrangements, further training would be rolled out in July to hopefully bring it back in line by quarter 2.

RESOLVED that the Strategic Risk Register as at the end of the financial year 2016/17 be noted.

11. Q4 2016/17 Operational Performance Report

Martin Walmsley, Interim Assistant Director, Strategic Development:

- a. presented a report detailing quarterly operational performance within the Council for quarter 4 of the financial year 2016/17, covering key service performance measures identified by members and Corporate Management Team (CMT) as of strategic importance, as detailed at Appendix A
- b. reported on four corporate measures as follows:
 - Sickness-Split by Long and Short Term
 - Corporate Complaints Including Ombudsman Rulings
 - Employee Full Time Equivalent (FTE) Headcount, Vacancies and Turnover
 - Staff Appraisals Completed
- c. highlighted the key headlines from performance results and corporate measures as detailed within paragraph 2 of the report
- d. outlined key areas of note this quarter as detailed within paragraphs 4.1 - 4.14 of the report and other achievements during the quarter as detailed at paragraphs 4.15 - 4.22 of the report
- e. invited members' questions and comments.

Members raised queries as follows:

- Reference was made within the report to a number of new properties on the council tax file including some student properties, which had brought about a rise in the net amount of council tax collected. Members questioned whether students were liable to pay council tax.
- Officer Response: A property would need to be wholly occupied by students to be exempt from council tax; also, not all students qualified for exemption.
- Why were figures for recycling not as good as hoped?
- Officer Response: As reported in detail by the Assistant Director, Communities and Street Scene at the last meeting of Performance Scrutiny Committee, this was due to contamination and the need for education awareness.
- Had the council learnt from the outcome of the two Local Government Ombudsman complaints which had been upheld?

- Officer Response: Yes this had been reviewed through the Departmental Management Team (DMT). One of the complaints related to an historic case of Anti-Social Behaviour and remedial work to make improvements had been taken.
- It was pleasing to note the reduction in the council's housing waiting list. How many people had actually been housed?
- Officer Response: 532 people had been rehoused in council homes during the year 2016/17. Some clients on the waiting list did not renew their application and chose to find their own accommodation.
- Were performance targets reviewed regularly?
- Officer Response: Yes targets were reviewed at the start of each financial year by DMT.
- Why did the budgeted establishment full time unfilled vacancies figure stand at 61.3, however, the council was actively recruiting to 26.9 positions? Were certain departmental sections holding back pots of money to pay for future vacancies? This made it difficult for the council as a whole to determine where savings could be achieved centrally.
- Officer Response: No. The reasons for this differential included various circumstances including flexible working requests, immediate needs for agency workers, unfilled hours due to management of change and maternity leave, recent resignations and temporary reductions in hours showing as unfilled.
- Had investigations been carried out to confirm the cladding on our high-rise flats was not the same material as that of the Grenfell Tower block disaster?
- Officer Response: Specifications had been compared to confirm the material for our tower blocks was not the same as that used on Grenfell Tower. Fire risk assessments/safety checks had also been made. The council however would not be complacent and would review the external material of its high-rise buildings.

RESOLVED that:

1. The operational performance achievements and outcomes within the Council at Quarter 4 2016/17 be noted.
2. The content of the report and comments made by members be noted and referred to Executive to ensure relevant portfolio holders placed a local focus on those highlighted areas showing deteriorating performance.

12. Work Programme for 2017/18

The Democratic Services Officer:

- a. presented the draft work programme for 2017/18 as detailed at Appendix A to her report
- b. advised that the work programme for Performance Scrutiny Committee was put forward annually for approval by Council; the work programme was then regularly updated throughout the year in consultation with the Performance Scrutiny Committee and its chair
- c. reported that items had been scheduled in accordance with the existing work programme and officers' guidance regarding the meetings at which

the most up-to-date information could be reported to the committee; the work programme also included the list of portfolio holders under scrutiny

- d. referred to projects to be reported to Performance Scrutiny Committee on the new Vision 2020 strategic priorities timetabled into the work programme, one per quarter, to enable a specific detailed focus on one topic area at a time, whilst ensuring all four strategic priorities be reported within a one year period
- e. requested any relevant comments or changes to the proposed work programme for 2017/18.

RESOLVED that the work programme 2017/18 as detailed at Appendix A to the report be noted.