

REPORT UNDER RULE 2(VI) OF THE COUNCIL PROCEDURE RULES

Report by Councillor Gary Hewson, Chair of Performance Scrutiny Committee

I have pleasure in presenting this evening a few paragraphs to try to give a flavour of the work the committee has been involved in during the past year. I don't think it would be possible in words to give justice to all the work that officers and members have put in, from officers preparing and presenting reports to members taking the opportunity to review and ask questions upon the information provided to them I know the temptation has sometimes drifted to speaking on Policy rather than Performance matters, however, overall this has been reigned in to a greater extent this year.

I would like to thank all the Portfolio Holders for improving on providing Committee with far more Performance Figures and Indicators relating to the workings of the Council they have ownership of

We hope we have in all our meetings been fair but if sometime a critical friend without fear or favour. Politically or Personally as I think we all realise it's not a bed of roses for local government at the moment but we all keep striving to get the best from what we have for the residents of Lincoln

As part of Performance Scrutiny Committee's remit, it has held regular 'portfolio under scrutiny' sessions where portfolio holders were invited to report on service achievements under their portfolio. Members were then able to ask questions about the performance of these service areas. The consideration of portfolio reports included the provision of a template for reports which places a focus upon providing performance information relating to the member's portfolio. By doing so, the Committee can focus on the performance of a portfolio with fewer diversions into detailed analysis of policy issues. It should be noted that moving forward I have asked that the Portfolio holder's agenda and the Councils Vision 2020 progress reports match together wherever possible.

A regular report was provided in the form of a Portfolio Performance overview presented by the Policy Unit to the relevant Performance Scrutiny Committee meeting with the purpose of bringing out key contextual benchmarking indicators about issues in the city overall related to the portfolio under scrutiny. This process helped promote effective scrutiny of the portfolio holder's report.

Performance Scrutiny Committee worked from a defined subset of the full IMPS data which was formally agreed by members and the Corporate Management Team as representing the key operational activities to be monitored by the Committee.

In addition to the regular scrutinising of portfolio holders, Performance Scrutiny Committee received quarterly reports on financial monitoring to provide members with a summary of actual income and expenditure compared to the revised budget and appropriate allocation of any surpluses to reserves.

Performance update reports were also scrutinised on a quarterly basis by Performance Scrutiny Committee to ensure regular monitoring of the Council's operational performance as a key component of the Local Performance Management Framework.

In addition, progress reports on strategic projects against their milestones were received on a quarterly basis as well as a summary of the projects delivered during the year to monitor that value for money was achieved.

A quarterly review of the Strategic Risk Register was presented to Performance Scrutiny Committee, detailing any changes in risk levels over the previous quarter.

A report on Treasury Management and Actual Prudential Indicators was also received as a requirement of the Council's reporting procedures under regulations issued under the Local Government Act 2003.

Members were also provided with an annual report detailing progress made by the Central Lincolnshire Joint Strategic Planning Committee.

Income and arrears monitoring reports provided updates to members on the position with regards to amounts of monies owed to the City Council as at 1st April.

Revenues and Benefits performance updates provided members with an update on performance in the Revenues and Benefits Shared Service.

The Lincoln City Profile 2016 was presented to Performance Scrutiny Committee in October 2016, which acted as the evidence base behind the development of the City of Lincoln Council's strategic priorities in the new Vision 2020. It also provides information to help the council continue to target resources where they are needed most. The latest 2017 version has also now been presented to all Committees, providing a current look at the cities challenges and successes.

Members were also updated on progress with projects identified under the Towards Financial Sustainability strand of the 2014-2017 delivery plan, the last delivery element of the old Strategic Plan, as well as an update on the Year four TFS savings Programme.

Members took part in the Budget Review Process for the scrutiny of the proposed budget and Council Tax for the 2017/16 financial year and the Medium Term Financial Strategy 2017-2022. undertaken in two separate stages; firstly, all members were invited to a briefing session to afford them the opportunity to gain a greater understanding and awareness of the Council's financial position, thus aiding further scrutiny of the budget and in the case of the opposition party if desired the preparation of an alternative budget. This was followed by a more traditional scrutiny process undertaken to review in more detail the Medium Term Financial Strategy and the robustness of the proposed budget options and Council Tax for the 2017/18 financial year. This was undertaken in a committee format as the Budget Review Group with the appropriate governance arrangements in place. We are about to seek

names for this year's Budget Review Group to carry out the same scrutiny of the 2018-2013 MTFS proposals.

Channel Shift Update

Members received a presentation on channel shift, an initiative to encourage customers with access to the internet to move towards electronic interaction. This would improve customer satisfaction, provide good value for money and contribute towards the councils' savings programme. The initiative has now been renamed "Customer Experience", and we will continue to monitor progress of it as part of the TFS Programme.

The Work of the Private Housing Team

Members were updated on the activity of the Private Housing team based on a review of the financial year 2015/16 and relating to matters reported through the IMPS performance system – the internal database for monitoring performance as well as government databases, comparing available figures with previous year's performance.

County Council Rejection Rates for Recycling

Members were presented with a report at the request of the Committee to provide an update on the current position with regards to 'contamination' within the recycling waste stream. The County Council's recycling contractor was reporting that the amount of contamination being found across Lincolnshire, and in Lincoln's recycling materials was rising and as a result the recycling rate for the city was falling.

Members offered feedback and noted positive actions and initiatives ongoing to improve performance.

Christmas Market 2016

It was noted that looking across financial losses in previous Christmas markets the council seemed to be moving in the right direction to bring down costs. It was also felt that the situation would need to be reviewed year on year, however it recognised the wider picture to the market having continued success and its benefits to the City's economy.

Members received a Christmas Market Stalls/Budget: Brief Pre-Event Report at its meeting held on 6 October 2016. Income from stalls was projected to be on budget including the 8% year on year increase in stallholder fees/income target. Overall at that stage at Quarter 2 there was an operational surplus of £7k projected due to a small underspend on expenditure budgets.

On 19 January 2017 an Interim Christmas Market Outturn report was welcomed by members detailing positive progress made in the financial position of the market which generated income for local shops to help sustain their business prospects over the remainder of the year.

Performance Scrutiny Committee received the final outturn report on the Christmas Market 2016 at its meeting in July 2017. Members were extremely satisfied and requested their thanks and praise to be given to the team for a job well done. It was the first time that the Christmas Market had managed to pay for itself and all in all it was an excellent event.

What Affects Wage Rates in the Lincoln Economy and Can We Influence Them

A report was given by Kate Ellis, Strategic Director, Major Developments on what factors affect wage rates in the Lincoln Economy and how we could influence them due to the following issue: The average Lincoln annual salary in 2015 decreased by £1,304 to £18,054 from the 2014 level. Figures from November 2015-November 2016 showed a worsening position.

Update- Transport Hub

Kate Ellis, Strategic Director, Major Developments gave a verbal update on progress with the Lincoln Transport Hub development, which was progressing well and to schedule.

Lincoln Anti-Poverty Action Plan 2014-2017

Members were updated on the key actions delivered in the Lincoln Anti-Poverty Action Plan 2014/17, and briefed on the success of the Lincoln Against Poverty Conference 2017.

Key Changes 2017/18 Looking Forward

The City of Lincoln Council launched its Vision 2020 Strategic Plan for the 2017/18 to 2019/20.

Vision 2020 contains four strategic priorities detailing how we aim to deliver Lincoln's ambitious future, as well as a strand focusing on high performing services. .

These projects will be reported to Performance Scrutiny Committee at a rate of one strategic priority per quarter each financial year, to enable a specific detailed focus on one topic area at a time, whilst ensuring all four strategic priorities are reported within a one-year period.

These reports will replace the Strategic Project reports presented in 2016/17, members may still request ad hoc reviews to be presented to the committee at their discretion as and when they feel necessary.

Housing Scrutiny Sub Committee

The Housing Scrutiny Sub-Committee, is Chaired by myself as part of Performance Scrutiny It was established in 2008 to increase engagement between backbench Members and Tenant Advisory Panel representatives. The Sub-Committee has continued to meet and tenants on the Committee consider that it has helped them

have their say when scrutinising housing matters. The Committee met six times during 2016/17.

The Committee considered many reports, including reports on the following topics:

- Tenant Involvement and Empowerment Strategy 2014-17
- Lincoln Tenants Panel Annual Report
- Annual Report to Tenants and Leaseholders 2015/16
- Improvements in ASB Case Management 2015/16
- New Build Strategy and Progress
- Housing Repairs and Maintenance Policy and Rechargeable Repairs Policy
- Housing Investment Programme.
- Home! Magazine Editions 2017-Article Planning

The Committee also effectively scrutinised Housing performance on a quarterly basis and received regular updates on the progress of the Lincoln Tenants Panel.

In summing up, thank you to all those on the Committee, both members and Officers who have helped make my role as Chair a pleasure to have performed this year. I can't let this opportunity pass without giving a special thanks to my Vice Chair Councillor Tony Speakman who has put so much of his self into this committee and helped and supported me in all matters where we have strived to get a better understanding of the workings of the Council to the benefit of the Committee. As a team we have always held pre meetings to go through agendas with officers to help members by providing questions they may like to follow up at the meetings, indeed these meetings have been known to last nearly as long as the Committee itself

I would also like to thank Eric Jenkinson who as recently stepped down as the Chair of the Tenants Panel for all his work as Chair of the Panel and on various Tenants Service Panels. He has helped those in Council Housing in various ways, too many to mention. In my role as Chair of Housing Scrutiny it has been a pleasure to work alongside him.

I wish Tony (Councillor Speakman) well when he leaves the Council next May and Eric (Jenkinson) well in his retirement moving forward.

Councillor Gary Hewson
Chair of Performance Scrutiny Committee