

RESOURCES AND CORPORATE OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY COMMITTEE

THURSDAY, 17 NOVEMBER 2016

PRESENT:- Councillors Emma Faramarzi (Chair), Steve Allsopp, Brian Ford, Des Moffatt, Timothy Swinyard, Caryl Sydney-Smith, Chris Watts, Keith Williams and Robert Wright.

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors Nick Martin and Maureen Penny.

Also Present: Sue Wald (Director, Adult Social Care), Leon Barrett (Head of StreetSmart).

10. Declarations of Interest

The Chair reminded members of the need to declare known interests in any matters to be considered at the meeting. No declarations were made.

11. Minutes

Resolved – That the minutes of the meeting held on 13th June 2016, be confirmed and signed as a correct record.

12. Public Question Time

In accordance with Standing Order 28, Mr Brian Cockbill, of 44 Stratton Road, Swindon, submitted questions regarding the transference and future maintenance of physical assets to parish councils.

The Chair thanked Mr Cockbill for his questions and comments and advised that a written response would be provided.

13. Cabinet Member for Adult Health and Social Care Questions and Answer Session

Councillor Brian Ford, Cabinet Member for Adults' Health and Social Care, was in attendance and presented to the Committee a detailed report summarising progress and performance in respect of each of the following service areas within his portfolio of responsibility:

- Adult Services (older people, people with a learning disability, physical disabilities and mental health)
- Adult Voluntary Sector Contracts
- Implementation of Care Act 2014
- Adult Local Safeguarding Board
- Public Health – adults
- Supported Housing
- Learning Disability Partnership Board
- Maintaining links between the Council and partner organisations in the Health Services

- SEQOL Client Lead member
- Health Improvement
- Sexual Health
- Specific Strategic projects

At the request of the Chair, Councillor Ford, in his presentation of the report, commented specifically on those elements within his portfolio which he felt had been most successful, those where a different approach might have produced better results and the lessons that might have been learned as a consequence, and the challenges he expected to be faced by the Council in relation to these service areas in the coming year and beyond, particularly in relation to on-going budgetary constraints. He referred to the changes with SEQOL and the work being undertaken by Enterprise Works where marketing their products would increase revenue. He emphasised that whilst the commercialisation of Enterprise works was being undertaken, the main focus was on ensuring that Enterprise Works would continue their work of supporting individuals moving into long term employment.

Following his presentation of the report, Councillor Ford with the Director of Adult Services responded to questions and observations on the following matters:

- Work being undertaken between the Clinical Commissioning Group, Great Western Hospital and the local authority regarding delay transfer of care and how this would affect the deployment of resources over the winter months.
- The challenge of bed pressures that was addressed through proactively working with other agencies.
- The proposal of selling products produced by Enterprise Works in the centre of Swindon.
- Marketing Enterprise Works by promoting their location and updating their website to reflect products available.
- The importance of retaining health navigators to promote healthy lifestyles and eating.
- Marketing of fast food outlets on local authority lamp posts and how these may impact the healthy eating message.
- The importance at taking into account the patients' wishes regarding their discharge from hospital.
- Learning disabilities services' costs.
- Dedicated accommodation being set up at Hawthorn Avenue and Pembroke Street.
- Differences in performance between self-directed support and carers receiving direct payments for support. Members noted how the local authority was supporting carers and promoting self-directed support.
- The importance of being able to support the community whilst adhering to data protection legislation.

Resolved – (1) That Councillor Ford be thanked for attending the meeting to present this performance report and for his full and open responses to members' questions and observations on the issues raised.

(2) That the Director of Strategy, Great Western Hospital, be requested to circulate the early release and re-admission rate of patients.

(3) That the Director of Adult Services be requested to consider the marketing of Enterprise Works in the centre of Swindon.

14. Cabinet Member for Streetsmart Question and Answer Session

Councillor Keith Williams, Cabinet Member for StreetSmart, was in attendance and presented to the Committee a detailed report summarising progress and performance in respect of each of the following service areas within his portfolio of responsibility:

- Waterside Depot Management
- Streetsmart
- Public Toilets,
- Envirocrime,
- Waste Disposal / Waste Minimisation
- Street Lighting [maintenance]
- Street Cleaning
- Recycling
- Refuse Collection – Domestic & Trade
- Ground & Tree Maintenance and open spaces
- Removal of graffiti and abandoned vehicles
- Parks (Streetsmart services only)
- Environmental Issues Landscape & Countryside (including Community Forest)
- Playgrounds, including those that are not presently utilised.
- Maintenance of Roundabouts and non-HRA verges
- Cemeteries and Crematoria Assets
- Building & Engineering
- Building Services, cleaning, catering & security services
- Gullies and drainage, minor road repairs, potholes
- Digital by Design
- IT Strategy and delivery

At the request of the Chair, Councillor Williams, in his presentation of the report, commented specifically on those elements within his portfolio which he felt had been most successful, those where a different approach might have produced better results and the lessons that might have been learned as a consequence, and the challenges he expected to be faced by the Council in relation to these service areas in the coming year and beyond, particularly in relation to on-going budgetary constraints. He referred to work being undertaken to maximise revenue, particularly by the EnviroCrime Team, the introduction of wake facilities and themed funerals at the Crematorium and the implementation of charges at the household waste recycle centre.

Following his presentation of the report, Councillor Williams with the council's Head of Streetsmart, responded to members' questions and observations on the following matters:

- Corporate Social Responsibility for both Council and local businesses.
- Working with the community, particularly those with no access to transport, to discourage fly tipping.
- The use of cameras at particular sites to discourage fly tipping.
- Charging at the new weighbridge at Waterside Household Waste and Recycling Centre (HWRC) and confirmation that this site was only used for trade waste by commercial businesses.

- Refuse disposal and enforcement in the town centre.
- Raising community awareness that the Council was returning certain areas to a more natural environment to encourage the return of flora and fauna and that these areas were not fly tipping zones.
- The impact of the weaker sterling on disposing recycled material overseas.
- How Euro bins may reduce fly tipping and improve the local environment.
- Benefits of paying for green waste by direct debit.
- The importance of ensuring schools engage with the Enviro-Crime Team.
- Confirmation that a review of salt gritting operations in the borough would be taken in the new year.

Resolved – (1) That Councillor Williams be thanked for attending the meeting to present this performance report and for his full and open responses to members' questions and observations on the issues raised.

(2) That the Head of StreetSmart be requested to liaise with the Director of Law and Democratic Services and update the Committee on the current Council position regarding Corporate Social Responsibility regulations.

(3) That the Head of StreetSmart be requested to circulate information regarding:

- (a) The statutory and non-statutory services that would be transferred to parish councils.
- (b) The recycling proposals and charging structure at Waterside.
- (c) The income generated from fishing rights.