

## **SCRUTINY COMMITTEE**

**MONDAY, 14 OCTOBER 2013**

PRESENT:- Councillors Kevin Small (Chair), Andrew Bennett, John Ballman, Oliver Donachie, Emma Faramarzi, Mary Friend, Cindy Matthews, Des Moffatt, Maureen Penny, Stan Pajak, Vera Tomlinson and Robert Wright

Councillor Dale Heenan, Cabinet Member for Strategic Planning and Sustainability, was also in attendance

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors Michael Dickinson (Vice-Chair) and Brian Ford

### **27. Declarations of Interest**

The Chair reminded Members of the need to declare any known interests in any matters to be considered at the meeting.

### **28. Public Question Time**

Mr Brian Cockbill put a series of questions regarding (a) the Council's practice in relation to confirming the minutes of meetings and (b) the Digital City (UK) Ltd and the UK Broadband projects.

It was noted that answers had been provided to Mr Cockbill's questions regarding the confirmation of minutes in advance of the meeting. The Chair, with Councillors Heenan and Moffatt, where they were able to, responded to Mr Cockbill's questions, and supplementary questions, regarding the Digital City (UK) Ltd and the UK Broadband (UKB) projects. The Chair asked that written responses be provided in respect of Mr Cockbill's two other questions regarding the UKB project.

### **29. Minutes**

Resolved – That the minutes of the meeting held on 16<sup>th</sup> September 2013 (adjourned until 20<sup>th</sup> September 2013), be confirmed and signed as a correct record.

### **30. Cabinet Member Question and Answer**

Councillor Dale Heenan, Cabinet Member for Strategic Planning and Sustainability, was in attendance and presented a detailed report summarising progress and performance in respect of each of the following service areas within his portfolio of responsibility:

- Planning Policy
- Neighbourhood Planning
- Community Infrastructure Levy
- Development Management
- Landscape Projects
- Sustainability Projects
- other technical services.

At the request of the Chair, Councillor Heenan, in his presentation of the report, commented specifically on those elements of 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 relation to these service areas in the coming year and beyond.

Following his presentation of the report, Councillor Heenan, supported by the Council's Head of Planning Services, responded to members' specific questions and observations on the following topics:

- the use of sites at Davis Place and Cricklade Road to provide new public use for a small car park (Davis Place) and improved public realm (both sites)
- the design brief for the former Corn Exchange and the funding for any ensuing scheme
- Mouldon Hill Phase 2 and the funding of footpath provision schemes in the area of the park
- the use of S106 monies for Mouldon Hill
- the Community Infrastructure Levy (CIL) and changes to the regulations in relation to the use of S106 monies, particularly in relation to the pooling of monies to a maximum of five schemes from April 2014
  - central public realm
- the outcome of the Local Plan Appeal hearing in relation to the Hook Street development
- the programme for the delivery of the refurbishment of Village Centres
  - the allocation of funding for these refurbishment projects
  - the timescale for the refurbishment of the Toothill Village Centre
  - the reduced level of financial resource allocated for the Toothill project and the Cabinet Member's reassurance of his expectation that the refurbishment will proceed as soon as the design and consultation on the Liden scheme is completed
  - the cost framework for delivering the Village Centre refurbishment projects
- the council's Housing Strategy and Local Plan provision for future housing development
- funding for the improvement of the St Mark's Recreation ground

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

(2) That information requested by members during the course of the Committee's consideration of this item be forwarded to members via the Committee Clerk.