

## **SCRUTINY COMMITTEE**

**MONDAY, 7 APRIL 2014**

PRESENT:- Councillors Kevin Small (Chair), John Ballman, Michael Bray, Michael Dickinson (Vice-Chair), Emma Faramarzi, Brian Ford, Mary Friend, Des Moffatt, Stan Pajak, Maureen Penny, Vera Tomlinson and Robert Wright

Councillor Brian Mattock, the Cabinet Member for Health and Adult Social Care, was in attendance.

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors Andrew Bennett and Cindy Matthews

### **63. Declarations of Interest**

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

### **64. Public Question Time**

Mr Richard Symonds of The Bramptons, Swindon, asked a question regarding the outcome of the Scrutiny Committee's recommendation to the Cabinet that the Digital City (UK)Ltd matter be referred to the Police. The Chair responded to Mr Symonds' question.

Ms Kareen Boyd, a local resident, asked about the expenditure of public funds by the Council and the Scrutiny Committee's role in ensuring due diligence in relation to such expenditure. The Chair responded to Ms Boyd's questions.

Ms Boyd asked a further question regarding the Scrutiny Committee's review of due diligence in relation to any proposed future investment by the Council in renewable energy initiatives. The Chair responded to Ms Boyd's further question.

Ms Boyd asked a further question regarding the Council's consultation processes in support of its proposals for the future provision of leisure services. The Chair agreed that a written response be provided.

Ms Boyd asked a further question about the training available to members of the Scrutiny Committee on the topic of consultation processes and, in particular, the case law relating to consultation. The Chair and the Director of Law and Democratic Services responded to the question.

Mr Hopkins, a local resident, asked about the Council's criteria for conducting formal public consultations and for the subsequent evaluation of consultation responses. The Chair responded to the question. Mr Hopkins asked a further question about his apparent exclusion from a consultation on a specific proposal that directly affected him as a property owner. The Chair responded to the question and agreed that a more detailed written answer be provided.

Mr Hopkins asked further questions, regarding the legal advice obtained by the Council on the proposed 99 year lease disposal of the area of land referred to and the liability of the Council in the event that that advice proved to be inaccurate. At the invitation of the Chair, the Director of Law and Democratic services responded to the questions.

Ms Jane Milner-Barry, a resident of Old Town, asked a question regarding the Council's statutory responsibility to consult locally in relation to the Croft and Dorcan playing field disposal and the extent of that consultation. The Chair responded to the question.

Ms Carole Bent, a resident of Marlborough Lane, made a statement regarding the public consultation undertaken in relation to the Croft proposal and asked when written answers to related questions, put this evening, would be provided. The Chair responded.

Ms Bent asked a further question, regarding the Council's current guidance in relation to public question time at Council bodies and whether these might be due to be reviewed. The Chair responded to Ms Bent's question.

Mr Reynolds, a local resident, asked a question regarding the anticipated profits attributed to the UK Broadband project. The Chair responded to Mr Reynolds' question.

#### **65. Minutes**

Resolved – That the minutes of the meeting held on 24<sup>th</sup> March 2014 be confirmed and signed.

#### **66. Cabinet Member Question and Answer - Cabinet Member for Health and Adult Social Care**

Councillor Brian Mattock, the Cabinet Member for Health and Adult Social Care, 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:

- Adult Services / Older People's (Social) Services,
- Lead Member for Health and Well-Being Board,
- Close working with the Care Quality Commission,
- Community Mental Health Services,
- Enterprise Works,
- Lead Member for Public Health – adults and children,
- Supporting People,
- Learning Disability Partnership Board ,
- Maintaining links between the Council and partner organisations in the Health Services,
- Services for People with Disabilities,
- Adult Social Care Services Department Management Overview, and
- SEQOL Client Lead member.

At the request of the Chair, Councillor Mattock, 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 relation to these service areas in the coming year and beyond.

Following his presentation of the report, Councillor Mattock responded to members' specific questions and observations on the following topics:

- the commissioning of domiciliary care services and the quality of the service provided by some external agencies
- supported housing and reablement and the delay in providing special care units at the Hawthorns facility
- the Avon and Wiltshire Mental Health Partnership Trust's performance in relation to the nationally mandated standard for assessment following emergency referral
- Seqol's working relationship with the Carer's Centre
- the implementation of the specific commitments set out in the concordat issued in response to the significant failings at Winterbourne View
- the formal inspection regime of adult commissioning and provider services
- the performance of Seqol in relation to the provision of integrated health and social care services
  - the monitoring of Seqol's performance
- the Council's and its health partners' objective of reducing obesity and the "in house" promotion of work on changing behaviours
- the resolution of a particular adult social care matter referenced by a member of the Committee and the Cabinet Member's view of the incidence of such similar problems
- the incidence of cases of malnutrition in the borough
- the training available to the Cabinet Member in relation to the various elements of his portfolio
- the powers and responsibilities of the Cabinet Member for Health and Adult Social Care
- measures to reduce cases of hospital bed blocking
- the impact of budget constraints and low rates of pay on the standard of domiciliary care services
- personalisation, the remit of the Clinical Commissioning Group and the availability of complementary and alternative treatments and medicines
- the Department of Health's "Putting people First" agenda and limitations to peoples' choice and control over the support they receive and where they receive it from
- the extent of the Cabinet Member's portfolio of responsibilities, the range of portfolio responsibilities of his cabinet colleagues and the case for the review of remuneration levels of cabinet members according to the level of those portfolio responsibilities

Resolved – That Councillor Mattock 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.

**67. Cabinet Member Question and Answer - Cabinet Member for Strategic Projects and Transformation**

The Committee noted that Councillor Mike Bawden, the Cabinet Member for Strategic Projects and Transformation, was unable to attend the meeting and that, consequently, his question and answer session with the Committee had been deferred until the meeting on 28<sup>th</sup> April 2014.