

SHOPSHIRE COUNCIL

PERFORMANCE MANAGEMENT SCRUTINY COMMITTEE

Minutes of the meeting held on 15 February 2017

**2.00 - 3.16 pm in the Shrewsbury/Oswestry Room, Shirehall, Abbey Foregate,
Shrewsbury, Shropshire, SY2 6ND**

Responsible Officer: Amanda Holyoak

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Present

Councillor Claire Wild (Chairman)

Councillors Steve Davenport (Vice Chairman), Joyce Barrow, Roger Evans and David Lloyd

42 Apologies for Absence and Substitutions

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors Gerald Dakin, Vince Hunt, Miles Kenny, Alan Mosley and Dave Tremellen.

43 Disclosable Pecuniary Interests

Members were reminded that they must not participate in the discussion or voting on any matter in which they have a Disclosable Pecuniary Interest and should leave the room prior to the commencement of the debate.

44 Minutes of the meeting held on 16 November 2016

The minutes of the meeting held on 16 November 2016 were confirmed as a correct record.

45 Public Question Time

There were no public questions.

46 Member Question Time

There were no questions from Members.

47 Financial Strategy 2017/18 to 2019/20

The Head of Financial Management and Reporting presented the report on the Financial Strategy 2017/18 to 2019/20.

A Member expressed concern that Cabinet had agreed that the Head of Finance, Governance and Assurance (Section 151 Officer), in consultation with the Leader of the Council, make amendments to the Financial Strategy following receipt of the Final Local Government Financial Settlement. This was because the settlement was not expected before 22 February 2017 when Council was scheduled for 23 February. It was noted that other authorities had set their budgets on this basis.

Members noted that the Council General Fund Balance and/or Financial Strategy Reserve would be used to enable any reduction in resources or increase in costs to be managed through this process. If timing was sufficient, the final position could be approved by Council on 23 February 2017. The Member suggested that the other Group Leaders be included in this discussion and the Chief Executive said he would recommend this approach to the Leader of the Council. It was hoped that the settlement might improve the position of the Council.

A member asked about the robustness of estimates and adequacy of reserves and whether this would be provided with paper to Council as it would be useful to have an explanation of what had happened with the reserves. It was confirmed that this would be provided as an appendix. He also asked for information on the reduction of income in Public Health, this had been raised in responses to the budget consultation. The Portfolio Holder for Health confirmed she was happy to provide briefing information on that outside of the meeting.

In response to a question from the Chair, the Portfolio Holder for Adults reported on work on admission avoidance and the domestic care brokerage system. The Portfolio Holder for Health also drew attention to the Neighbourhood work of the Sustainable Transformation Plan.

The report was noted.

48 Quarter 2 Performance Report 2016/17

The Performance Manager presented a report on the Council's Performance against its Key Outcomes for Quarter 2 2016/17 (copy attached to the signed minutes). He explained that this was the first time that the new online performance portal had been used in conjunction with the report and reminded members it could be accessed from <https://shropshireperformance.inphase.com/>. The portal would enable them to identify any performance areas they would like to consider in greater detail or refer to the appropriate Scrutiny Committee.

Attention was drawn to performance trending above that expected in the areas of delayed discharge from hospital, the number of people killed or seriously injured on the roads and residential placements in adult social care. In response to questions, the Performance Manager confirmed that it was possible to see how often information was accessed from the portal. It was also confirmed that the Health and Adult Social Care Scrutiny Committee had asked for a report on delayed discharge.

The report was noted.

49 Financial Monitoring Report - Quarter 3

The Head of Financial Management and Reporting explained that the report (copy attached to signed minutes) consolidated the previous separate Revenue and Capital Monitoring reports into one Financial Monitoring report as capital and revenue decisions had always had a close interdependency and impact on each other.

She outlined the contents of the report and responded to questions from members in relation to overall position, vacancy management, development management, slippage in the capital programme and money owed to the Council by the CCG.

The report was noted.

50 Task and Finish Group on Community Infrastructure Levy, New Homes Bonus and Section 106

The Committee considered and discussed proposed terms of reference for a Task and Finish Group on Section 106, Community Infrastructure Levy (CIL) and New Homes Bonus (NHB).

A Member passed on a request from Parish Councils for a clear, open and transparent process for making an application for CIL. He said the process had changed and it was felt that this had not been communicated well. He asked that the Task and Finish Group review the material available to ensure it could be easily understood by a small Parish Council.

The Committee agreed the Terms of Reference and asked that the Task of Finish Group be set up as soon as possible, with a view to work being completed and reported in September 2017. Councillors Davenport, Evans and Wild expressed an interest in membership of the Group.

51 Work Programme

Members noted that the following had been suggested for future scrutiny attention: residential placements; people killed and seriously injured on the roads; and learning from the University of Chester.

Signed (Chairman)

Date: