

# SHOPSHIRE COUNCIL

## PERFORMANCE MANAGEMENT SCRUTINY COMMITTEE

**Minutes of the meeting held on 4 May 2022**  
**2.00 pm – 4.05 pm in the Shrewsbury Room, Shirehall, Abbey Foregate,**  
**Shrewsbury, Shropshire, SY2 6ND**

**Responsible Officer:** Amanda Holyoak  
Email: amanda.holyoak@shropshire.gov.uk      Tel: 01743 257714

### **Present**

Councillor Claire Wild (Chairman)  
Councillors Joyce Barrow (Vice Chairman), Roy Aldcroft, Julia Buckley,  
Steve Charmley, Roger Evans, Robert Macey, Alan Mosley, Peggy Mullock and  
David Vasmer

### **1 Apologies for Absence and Substitutions**

Apologies were received from Councillor Les Winwood (substituted by Councillor Roy Aldcroft).

### **2 Disclosable Interests**

None declared

### **3 Minutes of the meeting held on 27 January 2022**

Minutes of the meeting held on 27 January 2022 were confirmed as a correct record.

### **4 Public Question Time**

There were no public questions.

### **5 Member Question Time**

There were no member questions.

### **6 Green Paper - Budget Consultation 2023 - 2024**

The Executive Director of Resources introduced the Green Paper setting out proposals for an improved budget consultation and alternative budget processes, following feedback from the previous year.

Members commented on the feedback on the last budget consultation , particularly the nature of some of the questions, the way they had been framed and the ease of access to the budget consultation itself.

Member noted plans to include more information in future whilst recognising the need to strike a balance between too much detail and not enough. It was also intended and to have more structured questions and less open text. It was hoped that the scrutiny committee would help to shape the approach.

Responding to a question about alternative budget proposals and information that would be available at the time of their preparation, the Executive Director explained that quarterly financial information was usually available 3 months after the end of the quarter. He also explained that monthly monitoring reports to Executive Directors were currently under review in a bid to reduce time spent on the monitoring process.

Members noted and welcomed the report.

## **7 Climate and Ecology Bill Task and Finish Group Final Report**

Members received the report of the Task and Finish Group which presented its conclusion - to support the Climate and Ecology Bill except for the proposal to establish a national citizens panel. The Committee noted that not all members the Group had been in agreement with regard to the issue of the citizen's panel. A request was made that members of the Group be listed within the report. It was also confirmed that all processes had been followed correctly in the set up and work of the Group.

The Committee endorsed the report of the Group.

## **8 Road Safety Around Schools Task and Finish Group**

The Overview and Scrutiny Officer reminded members that the Performance Management Scrutiny Committee had agreed to set up a refreshed road safety task and finish group in January 2022. The group had been instructed to consider the matter of road safety more widely, and to identify trial schemes of work that the council might undertake.

At the group's first meeting, it had agreed to narrow the scope and to focus on the issue of road safety around schools and the revised scope and terms of reference were now before the Committee for approval. It was confirmed that 20 mph limits outside of schools would be considered during one of the Group's sessions considering current Shropshire Council work.

Members agreed the revised draft terms of reference.

## **9 Performance Monitoring Report Quarter 3**

Following a brief introduction to the Quarter 3 Performance Monitoring report, members commented and asked questions in relation to the following:

*When and how could members feed into a performance management framework linked to the Shropshire Plan. It was felt that Members might want to see different information to officers.*

It was reported that workshops would be set up with different groups of members and the Performance Management Scrutiny Committee would contribute to its development

*Premises compliant with food safety standards* - were there enough visits being made as required by the Food Standards Agency?. The Committee felt that this was of interest to members of the council and members of the public and it was agreed to refer this as a potential issue for the attention of the Communities Overview Committee.

*Looked After Children* – what were the reasons for Shropshire having a higher rate of looked after children than statistical neighbours and England.

It was acknowledged that the recent Ofsted inspection had found the Council was doing a good job and was admitting the right numbers into the service but members of the Committee felt that the underlying reasons for the high numbers needed to be investigated and understood as a matter of urgency.

*How many households paying council tax* – a member felt it would be useful to identify the number of Category D houses paying council tax in full which would help reflect the income of households in the county. The Executive Director said he would look into whether extraction of this information was possible.

Questions and discussion also covered the drop in number of affordable homes, access to broadband and satisfaction with highways and transport. Members were encouraged to access the portal for more information and commentary behind the figures.

Officers explained that it was intended that the portal would be able to provide more timely information in future with live information available for some indicators. Work was underway with services to identify what would clearly demonstrate the outcomes of the Shropshire Plan and the Chair encouraged members to attend workshops to identify what indicators would be important to them.

The report was noted and it was agreed to refer the issues raised around Looked After Children to the People Overview Committee and compliance with food safety standards to the Communities Overview Committee.

## **10 Capital and Financial Strategy 2022/3 to 2026/7**

The Executive Director of Resources introduced the Capital and Financial Strategy 2022/3 to 2026/7 explaining that it was an evolving document.

He answered questions from committee members in relation to: the process of decision making around identification and prioritisation of capital schemes; assumptions around borrowing and cash balances.

Responding to questions around the North West Relief Road, he explained that the original plans for expenditure of £70m were to have been covered by £54m of government funding with the balance funded by the Council using capital receipts. On that basis there were no revenue implications but as the costs were very likely to have increased the gap would need to be funded by the council with the revenue implication yet to be factored in. An up to date costing was currently being produced and would be subject to triple checking. He said there was no indication of a time limit being attached to the government grant available for the scheme.

Members noted the report.

### **11 Financial Monitoring 2021 - 2022 Quarter 3**

The Executive Director of Resources introduced the report explaining the need for a control corridor of £2.6m – £9.7 m. The projected revenue outturn position at the end of Quarter 3 was within the corridor and estimated to be £4.346m.

The Executive Director responded to requests for clarification in relation to the revised capital programme and allocations from ring fenced capital receipts; potential uses of the Contain Outbreak Management Fund grant; and in relation to Broadband Capital and Planning Policy Capital

It was agreed that Cabinet be asked to consider the possibility of the use of the Contain Outbreak Management Fund grant to address issues discussed earlier in the meeting around vulnerable and looked after children.

Members noted the report.

### **12 Work Programme**

The committee requested opportunities to input into the Performance Framework and identification of performance indicators. Members were asked to notify the Overview and Scrutiny Officer if they wished to suggest any changes to the work programme. It was agreed that strategic risk item be deferred for the time being.

Signed ..... (Chairman)

Date: .....