

WAVERLEY BOROUGH COUNCIL

MINUTES OF THE OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY - SERVICES - 20 SEPTEMBER 2022

(To be read in conjunction with the Agenda for the Meeting)

Present

Cllr Kevin Deanus (Chairman)	Cllr Mary Foryszewski
Cllr Peter Marriott (Vice Chairman)	Cllr Ruth Reed
Cllr Carole Cockburn	Cllr Richard Seaborne
Cllr Martin D'Arcy	Cllr Philip Townsend
Cllr Sally Dickson	Cllr Michaela Wicks

The Chairman advised that Cllr Jenny Else had resigned from the Committee and he would like his thanks for her contribution to the Committee to be recorded.

15 MINUTES (Agenda item 1)

The Minutes of the meeting held on 21 June 2022 were agreed as a correct record.

16 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE AND SUBSTITUTIONS (Agenda item 2)

Apologies for Absence were received from Cllr Peter Marriott.

17 DECLARATIONS OF INTERESTS (Agenda item 3)

There were no declarations submitted for this meeting.

18 QUESTIONS BY MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC (Agenda item 4)

There were none

19 QUESTIONS FROM MEMBERS (Agenda item 5)

There were none.

20 COMMITTEE FORWARD WORK PROGRAMME (Agenda item 6)

Mark Mills updated the committee on the following:

- The comments and recommendations on the Green Spaces are being integrated into the report by officers.
- The Local Enforcement Planning Action Plan was scheduled to be considered by the committee in November.
- The ASB update would now come to the committee in Summer 2023 as the Public Protection Space had only just come into force.

Cllr Seaborne advised that the comments of the Committee on the Biodiversity Action Plan had not been represented correctly to the Executive. The Chairman

and Vice Chairman had been unavailable to attend Executive and he asked if a substitute member of the committee could attend in future.

Action: Executive to be asked if they would be happy for a substitute member of the committee could attend in future if the Chairman and Vice Chairman were unavailable.

21 CORPORATE PERFORMANCE REPORT Q1 2022/2023 (Agenda item 7)

Jenny Sturgess, Policy and Performance Officer, was welcomed to the Committee.

Jenny Sturgess advised that the financial figures were not representative of the first quarter and are the figures at the end of Q4.

Cllr Seaborne advised that collections of street bins appeared to be reactive rather than proactive as they only seemed to be emptied when they were overflowing. Richard Homewood advised this should no longer be happening and asked for any instances to be reported to him. Members also advised that residential collections had also been atrocious recently and residents were having difficulty reporting this online. Richard Homewood raised concern at this and asked for incidents to be reported to him.

Cllr Dickson asked for an update on the bike shelters for Farnham. Kelvin Mills advised discussions were still taking place on a suitable location and style.

Cllr Dickson noted there was no mention of Farnham Museum in the report. Kelvin Mills advised that there was little to report other than the second round of funding applications were going through.

It was noted that there was some improvement in planning performance this quarter. Sally busby advised that the figures for 151a, 153a and 123a included the backlog for the last 2 years so were unlikely to show a positive improvement for some time.

It was highlighted that members were finding it difficult to find information on the website and relied upon contacting officers directly. It was difficult to find housing numbers and running totals. It was also highlighted that changes and extensions to applications were not obvious. Officers were asked to look at this.

It had been noted that pavement licensing had now moved permanently to Boroughs and Districts and members wished to know what cost implications this would incur. Officers advised the allowances would be adjusted to cover this.

22 CARBON NEUTRALITY ACTION PLAN (Agenda item 8)

Fotini Vickers attended for this item and advised this was the second update on the Carbon Neutrality Plan.

Cllr Sally Dickson raised concern around whether some of the short term actions needed further consideration. She felt moving to a green tariff may not be viable considering the current energy crisis. She also raised concern regarding the

changing energy options for housing as it had already been evidenced that heat exchangers are costly.

The Committee discussed the action to go paperless and agreed that large agenda papers were difficult to read electronically and the tablets provided to members were too small to read agendas effectively.

Cllr Cockburn highlighted there was no effective plan to join it all together and that we already have things in our current policies that are not acted upon already e.g. inefficient planning permissions and builds so we cannot add more. CC1-CC4 should be complied with.

Action: Planning should be encouraged to complete a checklist – this had already been produced by Cllr D’Arcy two years ago as an example.

Cllr Forszewski asked how T04 (Cycle Lanes) this would be implemented. What if we don’t own the land?

Fotini Vickers advised:

- that a sustainability SPD had been produced to join up the planning policy. This will encourage developers. LPP1 will be reviewed and will give an opportunity to introduce new policies.
- Leisure Centres were working closely with Waverley on improvements.
- Contractors – they do like to stipulate expectations during procurement and are having discussions on variations to their contracts.
- With regards to To4 the project is already underway with the projects officer and SCC to design in routes.

Cllr Seaborne highlighted a few errors/issues with the report. The forward should be dated September 2022 not 2023, the hyperlinks in footnotes on the Greenhouse gases were not appropriate if report is in paper form so full references should be included.

Cllr Seaborne also commented that the highest priority should be the improvements to the housing stock

Action: Asset Manager to address both O&S committees once in post.

The Committee discussed how to change the cultures. It was acknowledged that it was not appropriate to tell people what to do but the council should lead by example.

Recommendation:

Services O&S notes:

- The progress made on the CNAP during 2022 attached in Annexe 1
- The GHG report attached in Annexe 2 and agree that it is published on the Waverley Borough Council website
- The updated content of version 3 of the CNAP as presented in Annexe 3

Furthermore, the Committee recommends:

- 1) That energy efficiency of council owned housing should be given higher priority as emissions from these properties represent the main emissions for which the Council

has direct responsibility, and also noting the heightened risk of fuel poverty for financially challenged residents due to the inflation of energy prices.

- 2) The addition of an action to make more extensive use of existing planning policies to promote climate change objectives. This should include a checklist for all applications to ensure they are complying with relevant climate change policies. This should be routinely reported to members of planning committees deciding applications.
- 3) Review the short-term actions to ensure:
 - That the timescale to deliver them has not been affected by the Cost of Living crisis and higher than expected inflation.
 - The action identifies as precisely as practical what is to be delivered within the timescale outlined.
- 4) Though the inclusion of footnotes is commendable, a recognised referencing style should be followed rather than relying on hyperlinks, which do not work in paper documents.

23 LEISURE MANAGEMENT CONTRACT TASK AND FINISH GROUP (Agenda item 9)

Cllr Forszewski as Chairperson of the Task & Finish Group outlined the report. She advised the group had considered a document that was over 700 pages long before coming to their recommendations. She wished to thank the members and officers of the Task and Finish Group for their contributions to the meetings.

Cllr Baker had registered to speak on this item and enquired what form the proposed outreach work in rural communities would take. Kelvin Mills advised this would be part of the tender pack and the applications would outline their proposals.

Recommendation

The Committee endorsed the Group's interim recommendations

24 EXCLUSION OF PRESS AND PUBLIC (Agenda item 10)

There were no items to discuss in exempt session so the Chairman closed the meeting.

The meeting commenced at Time Not Specified and concluded at Time Not Specified

Chairman