

WAVERLEY BOROUGH COUNCIL

EXECUTIVE - 10 OCTOBER 2017

REPORTS AND RECOMMENDATIONS FROM OVERVIEW & SCRUTINY COMMITTEES

Value for Money & Customer Service Overview and Scrutiny Committee

Item under consideration: General Fund Budget 2017/18 Overview

Date considered: 11 September 2017

Background: The Value for Money and Customer Service Overview and Scrutiny Committee received a report on the Medium Term Financial Plan which included a forecast General Fund budget shortfall of £2.8m over a three-year period. The Committee was invited to comment on how members could most effectively contribute to the budget setting process and propose any measures for cost reduction, efficiency or income generation that may assist with the forecast budget shortfall.

The Committee agreed that cost-cutting was not the most effective way of balancing the budget in the longer term. Members noted the work the Executive was undertaking on the future direction of the Council, and felt that in order to address the shortfall in the long term; a radical re-think of how services are delivered was required.

Members noted that the Council provided discretionary services with the potential to generate significant income, such as leisure centres, Waverley Training Services and Careline, but noted that it was unclear whether all such services had overarching commercial policies or business plans.

Recommendations: The Value for Money and Customer Service Overview and Scrutiny Committee made the following recommendation, that:

- 1) officers be asked to undertake business-planning for discretionary services in order to maximise income-generation opportunities.**

Community Wellbeing Overview & Scrutiny Committee

Item under consideration: Factors affecting Health Inequalities in the Borough

Date considered: 12 September 2017

Background: The Community Wellbeing Overview & Scrutiny Committee has agreed to undertake a scrutiny review of factors affecting health inequalities in the Borough. As part of the introduction to this work, the Committee received a presentation from Karen Simmonds, Public Health England (Surrey County Council) on district councils' contribution to public health.

Recommendations: **The Community Wellbeing Overview and Scrutiny Committee made the following recommendation, that:**

- 1) the Executive invites Karen Simmonds to deliver her presentation on district councils' contribution to public health to the Executive.**

Environment Overview and Scrutiny Committee

Item under consideration: Impact of Surrey County Council proposals to change services at Community Recycling Centres (CRCs)

Date considered: 18 September 2017

Background: The Environment Overview & Scrutiny Committee received a verbal update on the County Council's proposals to change services at the CRC. *These proposals are expected to be agreed at the Cabinet meeting on 26 September.*

The Committee was pleased to note that it was no longer proposed to close the Cranleigh CRC. However, the Cranleigh CRC would be closed for "part" of the week from January 2018. A strategic number of CRCs would remain open 7 days a week, other sites would close for up to two days a week from January 2018.

The Committee also noted that the free daily allowance of chargeable waste from the construction, alteration or repair of homes and gardens would cease from December 2017, and that vans and trailers would be excluded from Cranleigh and Farnham CRCs from December 2017.

The Committee was concerned that these restrictions will result in an increase in residual waste collected by Waverley in the black bins, and/or an increase in the amount of waste that is fly-tipped.

Recommendations: **The Environment Overview and Scrutiny Committee made the following recommendations, that:**

- 1) the Executive instructs officers to monitor carefully the tonnages of residual waste collected by Waverley, to identify any increase that may be a consequence of restrictions imposed at the CRCs; and**

- 2) **the Executive instructs officers to develop a more robust method for recording incidents of fly-tipping, which includes fly-tipping on private land and parks, and records more accurately the tonnage of fly-tipped material collected and delivered to SCC.**

Housing Overview and Scrutiny Committee

Item under consideration: Sheltered Housing Service and Housing Related Support

Date considered: 19 September 2017

Background: The Housing Overview & Scrutiny Committee received a verbal update on Surrey County Council's proposals to stop funding for Housing Related Support for services for older people and people with disabilities; and to significantly reduce the level of Housing Related Support funding for the socially excluded. *These proposals are expected to be agreed at the Cabinet meeting on 26 September.*

The Committee noted that Housing Related Support for older people currently contributed to funding the Manager positions in Waverley's eight Sheltered Housing Schemes. The Managers provide an important service to vulnerable older tenants who, with that low level of support, are able to maintain a level of independent living that would otherwise be at risk and could lead to more residents requiring intervention from Adult Social Care.

The Committee also noted that the Waverley Tenants' Panel had attended all the Surrey County Council consultation events at the Sheltered Housing Schemes and had helped tenants complete the consultation, had contacted the local press to publicise their concerns, and made direct representations to the County Council summarising the concerns of tenants.

Recommendations: The Housing Overview and Scrutiny Committee made the following recommendations, that:

- 1) **the Executive thanks the Tenants' Panel for their work in supporting Waverley tenants in Sheltered Housing Schemes during the consultation;**
- 2) **the Executive reassures Waverley tenants that the Careline service is not affected by Housing Related Support funding, and will continue; and,**
- 3) **the Leader writes to all Surrey MPs, the Prime Minister, and The Rt.Hon Sajid Javid MP, Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government, to express grave concerns about the impact of cuts in Housing Related Support, especially to services for older people, and to**

press the Government to bring forward the long-awaited Green Paper on the future funding of supported housing. The Committee recommended that the Tenants' Panel report be attached to the Leader's letter.

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