

Council **30 September 2013**

VICE-CHAIRMAN'S REPORT **PERFORMANCE AND AUDIT SCRUTINY COMMITTEE**

Report by Cllr Christopher Spicer ***Vice-Chairman of the Performance and*** ***Audit Scrutiny Committee***

This report covers the meeting of the Committee held on 31 July 2013

- 1. Presentation by Councillor Ray, Portfolio Holder for Resources and Performance**
 - 1.1 Councillor Ray, Portfolio Holder for Resources and Performance was invited to the meeting to discuss his portfolio and performance issues. The presentation gave an overview of his portfolio activities in relation to the work of the Performance and Audit Scrutiny Committee. In particular discussions were held on shared services savings, business rates, on-line customer access and the expansion of the Anglia Revenues and Benefits Partnership.
- 2. Key Performance Indicators and Quarter 1 Performance Report 2013/2014**
 - 2.1 Members considered the first quarterly report for 2013/2014, which set out the Key Performance Indicators (KPIs) used to measure the Council's performance for 2013/2014 which had been developed and agreed in discussion between Heads of Service and Portfolio Holders.
 - 2.2 The report included an overview of performance against those indicators for the first quarter of 2013/2014 for St Edmundsbury Borough Council (SEBC) together with a combined performance for West Suffolk (Forest Heath District Council (FHDC) and SEBC) where relevant. A total of 37 indicators were reported this quarter for SEBC, of which 17 were green, 6 amber and 5 red. 9 were data only indicators. For West Suffolk a total of 35 indicators were reported, of which 14 were green, 6 amber and 5 red. 10 were data only indicators.
 - 2.3 Members discussed a number of the indicators, including the number of households where homelessness prevented and the speed of determination of planning applications.

3. Budget Outturn and Financial Highlights Report (2012-2013)

- 3.1 The Accounts and Audit Regulations 2011 require the Council to submit draft accounts to its external auditors (currently Ernst and Young) by 30 June each year, with Member scrutiny and approval of the accounts required once the audit has been concluded (normally by 30 September each year). The draft accounts had been prepared and the Committee considered an overview of the Council's budget outturn and financial highlights for the 2012/2013 financial year.
- 3.2 The report included a financial commentary on the year, details of revenue and expenditure including budgeted and actual expenditure and an explanation of the main variances, and details of how services were paid for. Capital income and expenditure was also discussed, as well as reserves and treasury management.

4. Budget Monitoring Report (1 April to 30 June 2013)

- 4.1 The Committee received the quarterly budget monitoring report which informed Members of the Council's financial position for the first quarter of 2013, and highlighted significant variances. The latest overall position on the General Fund showed a current underspend of £123,000. A summary of the major variances over £50,000 was provided in the report together with information on capital receipts received in the period to 30 June 2013.
- 4.2 In terms of the capital programme, a review had taken place as part of the budget and council tax setting process. This had involved rescheduling budgets to take into account timing differences between planned and actual capital expenditure.

5. Corporate Risk Register Quarterly Monitoring Report (June 2013)

- 5.1 The first quarterly risk register monitoring report for 2013/2014 had been prepared following a review by the Risk Management Group. Since the last assessment report was presented to the Committee on 29 April 2013, there had been no new risks identified and no risks had been amended or closed. However, some controls and actions had been updated and these were reflected in the individual risk record.
- 5.2 The Committee discussed some of the risks in this quarter's report, including "provision of affordable housing" and suggested reference to the Council's Vision 2031 document should be included which might help mitigate the residual risk, to which officers responded.

6. Treasury Management Annual Report (2012/2013) and Investment Activity 1 April to 30 June 2013 and Review of the Councils Treasury Management Strategy

- 6.1 The Treasury Management Sub-Committee met on 22 July 2013, and considered the above report. The report presented the Annual Treasury Management Investment Report, summarising the investment activities for the year 2012/2013, the investment activity for the first three months of the 2013/2014 financial year and provided proposals for a forthcoming review of

the Council's Treasury Management Strategy including the appointment of an independent Treasury Management consultant to assist with the review process.

- 6.3 The Sub-Committee had scrutinised the content of the report, and the Committee endorsed its recommendation that the Annual Treasury Management Report 2012/2013, attached as Appendix 1 to Report E61, be approved by Cabinet and Full Council.

7. Work Programme Update

- 7.1 The Committee received and noted a report which provided information on the current status of the Committee's Work Programme and items scheduled to be presented to the Committee during 2013/2014.

(Note: As the agenda and papers for this Council meeting have been distributed prior to the next meeting of the Performance and Audit Scrutiny Committee on 26 September 2013, the general report for noting relating to that meeting will be on the next Council agenda).

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