



Council 23 September 2014

PERFORMANCE AND AUDIT SCRUTINY COMMITTEE – CHAIRMAN'S REPORT TO FULL COUNCIL

Report by Cllr Sarah Broughton

This report covers the meeting of the Committee held on 31 July 2014. The Committee held its first informal joint meeting with members of Forest Heath's Performance and Audit Scrutiny Committee, and considered the first three items jointly:

1. Key Performance Indicators and Quarter One Performance Report (2014-2015)

- 1.1 The Committee received and noted the report, which set out the Key Performance Indicators (KPIs) being used to measure the Council's performance for 2014-2015 and the proposed KPIs for 2014-2015, which had been developed in discussion between Heads of Service and Portfolio Holders.
- 1.2 A total of 24 indicators for St Edmundsbury were reported this quarter, of which 9 were green, 3 were amber, 4 were red and 70 were data only indicators. For West Suffolk there were a total of 22 indicators, of which 61 were green, 4 were amber, 3 were red and 7 were data only indicators. Members were advised that the figures would not agree to the total number of indicators due to 2 indicators not having been able to provide values for quarter one. Overall performance for housing and planning had improved since the last quarterly update report.
- 1.3 Members discussed a number of the indicators to which responses were duly provided.

2. West Suffolk Strategic Risk Register – June 2014

- 2.1 The Committee received and noted the report, which informed Members that following the development of the single management and service structure across Forest Heath and St Edmundsbury, there had been considerable similarity between the respective councils risk registers. The Risk Management Group, at its July meeting, considered a new risk register and risk management toolkit for West Suffolk. The Risk Group had used the newly developed toolkit, attached as Appendix 2 to the report to access each risk identified in Appendix

1. Part of the assessment included the consideration of the summary of actions in place to address the individual risks.

2.2 Members discussed the report, including the colour coding of the West Suffolk Risk Register, to which officers duly responded.

3. Performance and Audit Scrutiny Work Programme Update

3.1 The Committee received and noted a report which provided information on the current status of its Work Programme and items scheduled to be presented during 2014-2015.

4. Annual Performance Report of The Apex

4.1 This report followed on from the interim report presented to the Committee in January 2014, and would in future be presented annually each summer. The report included an executive summary and details on the Apex's performance; the Sodexo catering contract; analysis of budgets and conclusion.

4.2 The Committee scrutinised the annual performance report and asked a number of detailed questions to which the Cabinet Member and officers duly responded. Questions and responses covered topics including the means of calculating the published 10% reduction in running costs; use of the venue by people on low incomes or living in Haverhill; the Council's use of the venue for its own events; the difference financially between the Apex (i.e. Council) promoting a concert and a promoter hiring the venue; and the governance of the Apex, including the operation of the Apex Panel.

4.3 In general terms, some Members raised concerns about the cost to the taxpayer in subsidising the Apex at a time of financial constraints for local authorities. The majority of the Committee acknowledged that the Apex was moving in the right direction, in accordance with the two-year review.

4.4 However, an amendment to the tabled recommendation (to note the report) was proposed by Councillor Nettleton and seconded by Councillor Cox, that the Annual Performance Report for The Apex be rejected and an urgent review of its level of subsidy be triggered. With 3 voting for the proposal and 4 against, it was declared that the motion was lost.

4.5 The Committee was advised that concerns raised by Members would be raised directly with the Apex Panel so they were aware of them and any future concerns or issues, in between the annual report could be raised with the Panel through the Chairman of the Performance and Audit Scrutiny Committee.

5. Financial Outturn Report (Revenue and Capital) 2013-2014

5.1 The Committee received and noted the Financial Outturn Report, which updated Members on the current position of the 2013-2014 revenue and capital spend against budget. The report included financial commentary on the year, details of the revenue and capital outturn position and an explanation of the major variances.

6. Budget Monitoring Report (1 April – 30 June 2014)

- 6.1 The Committee received and noted the quarterly budget monitoring report informing Members of the Council's capital financial position for the first quarter of 2014-2015, which showed expenditure of £381,000. The report also summarised the Council's revenue position for the year to date position after three months, currently showing an under spend of £148,000. The year end forecast position, was showing an under spend of £135,000.

7. Annual Treasury Management Report 2013-2014 and Investment Activity 1 April to 30 June 2014

- 7.1 The Treasury Management Sub-Committee met on 21 July 2014, and considered the above report. The report presented the Annual Treasury Management Investment Report, summarising the investment activities for the year 2013-2014, and the investment activity for the first three months of the year 2014-2015.
- 7.2 The Sub-Committee had scrutinised the content of the report, and the Committee endorsed its recommendation that the Annual Treasury Management Report 2013-2014, attached as Appendix 1 to Report F69, be approved by Cabinet and Full Council.

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