

Performance and Finance Select Committee

18 March 2015 – At a meeting of the Select Committee held at 10.30 a.m. at County Hall, Chichester.

Present: Mrs Urquhart (Chairman)

Mr Burrett	Mr Lamb**	Mr Tyler
Mrs Evans	Mr McAra	Mr Waight
Mr Glennon	Mrs Millson	Mr Watson
Ms James*	Mr R Rogers	
Mrs Kitchen	Mr Turner	

In attendance by invitation: Mr Brown (Cabinet Member for Finance).

Apologies for absence were received from Mr Metcalfe.

* Ms James left at 10:55 a.m.
** Mr Lamb arrived at 10:55 a.m.

Part I

Declarations of Interest

186. In accordance with the code of conduct, the following personal interests were declared:

- Mr Tyler as the Chairman of the Environmental and Community Services Select Committee in relation to the Urgent Matters discussion on the published Design and Build Framework and Professional Services Contract Procurement Strategy decision.
- Mr McAra as a member of the Chichester District Council's Planning Committee in relation to the PropCo – Land at Orchard Street, Chichester Papers.

Minutes of the 22 January Meeting

187. Resolved – that the minutes of the Performance and Finance Select Committee held on 22 January 2015 be approved as a correct record, and that they be signed by the Chairman.

Part I Minutes of the joint meeting held on 27 February

188. Resolved – that the Part I minutes of the joint meeting of the Performance and Finance and the Environmental and Community Services Select Committees held on 27 February 2015 be approved as a correct record, and that they be signed by the Chairman.

Part II Minutes of the joint meeting held on 27 February

189. The Committee agreed that as they had no comments on the minutes it was not necessary to enter Part II to discuss their content.

190. Resolved – that the Part II minutes of the joint meeting of the Performance and Finance and the Environmental and Community Services Select Committees held on 27 February 2015 be approved as a correct record, and that they be signed by the Chairman.

Urgent Matters

191. The Committee discussed the decision 'Highways and Transport Design and Build Framework and Professional Services Contract - Approval to Procure a Professional Services Term Contract and a Highways Design And Build Framework - HT28 (14/15)' which had been recently published.

192. Concerns were raised that the decision had not been scrutinised by a Select Committee. However, the Committee acknowledged that if the decision was called-in it would cause delays to the procurement process. Members were satisfied with procurement arrangements but wanted insight into the details of the contract. The role of Members in Commissioning was raised and the importance of their involvement was emphasised.

193. Resolved –

- (1) That a report will come to the next meeting of the Committee explaining the details of the contract which will allow members to scrutinise the specific elements of the contract
- (2) That Forward Plan entries should include more detail to enable members to recognise issues that should be previewed at Select Committees.

Responses to Recommendations

194. The Committee considered a response from the Cabinet Member for Highways and Transport regarding Footway Improvements (copy appended to the signed minutes).

195. The Committee made comments including those that follow. It:

- Sought clarification on where the money was coming from to fund the additional footway maintenance. - *The Executive Director of Corporate Resources and Services explained that as roads had been improved in such a way that they needed less repairs, funds for repairs could be moved from the Better Roads budget towards footway improvements. The Committee were reassured that planned highway works were not impacted by this transfer of funds.*
- Raised concerns that large scale improvements could be wholly reliant on the challenge fund bid being a success.

196. The Chairman of the Environmental and Community Services Select Committee (ECSSC) reported that footway maintenance had been scrutinised at a recent meeting of theirs and would continue to be monitored. The Chairman reported that support would be given if a Task and Finish Group was proposed to look into the issues that had been raised in further detail.

197. The Committee also noted a response from the Chairman of the Health and Adult Social Care Select Committee regarding the implications of the Care Act (copy appended to the signed minutes).

198. The Committee welcomed the responses.

Total Performance Monitor to January 2015

199. The Committee considered a report by the Executive Director of Corporate Resources and Services (copy appended to the signed minutes).

200. The Committee also received a presentation and a tabled paper from the Performance Manager which provided a summary of the Performance Framework measures and their expected position at the end of the year. The presentation also reported which measures would continue to be monitored from April 2015 (copies appended to the signed minutes).

201. The Cabinet Member for Finance introduced the report which set out the County Council's finance, performance and risk position as at the end of January 2015. It was confirmed that the savings target of £14.7m was expected to be achieved. An overspend of £0.3m in the Children – Start of Life portfolio was reported due to a number of additional placements of Children Looked After.

202. The Cabinet Member for Finance also reported that the Deputy Cabinet Member had been asked to attend meetings with Project Managers to ensure that capital projects were adequately monitored, were on schedule and on budget.

203. The Committee made comments including those that follow. It:

- Raised concerns that the planned changes to the Performance Measures could be seen as not challenging enough. Members also raised concerns that changing measures between years made progress and achievements hard to monitor. – *The Performance Manager explained that the Measures were not being reduced in their expectations but realigned to suit the main priorities of the County Council.*
- Queried the high level of agency staff that were being employed. – *The Executive Director of Corporate Resources and Services explained that agency staff were utilised to help meet demand levels. The risk of this was monitored in the risk register. It was reported that reducing the high level of agency staff within social work was currently being investigated by the Executive Director Care, Wellbeing & Education. This will include reviewing recruitment, training and competitive salaries.*
- Questioned the funding towards a multi-disciplinary care and clinical governance team and why underspend had been used for this purpose. – *The Executive Director of Corporate Resources and Services reported that the Cabinet had asked the Executive Director Care, Wellbeing & Education to help stabilise the care market in order to reduce the number of home closures. The new team would help small homes adapt to the introduction of new standards and legislation. The request had been too late for a formal entry into the 2015/16 Annual Budget and so underspend had been utilised. The Chairman of the Health and Adult Social Care Select Committee reported that the Health and Wellbeing Board were monitoring the team's effectiveness. The Committee raised concerns about the team's purpose and*

objectives and whether the County Council's role in the care market required re-evaluation. The Chairman requested a paper to come to the next Committee meeting to give Members more detail on the market situation and a chance to raise further questions.

- Queried the work to introduce workforce monitoring on future reports. – The Executive Director of Corporate Resources and Services explained that there had been difficulties in collating the necessary data from CAPITA and so the Insight team were developing their own system to enable forecasting on future reports.
- Sought clarity on the funding transfer reported in the Highways and Transport portfolio regarding Town Centre and Village Improvements. – The Executive Director of Corporate Resources and Services resolved to circulate details of the scheme to members of the Committee.

204. Resolved –

- (1) That the Monitor be noted.
- (2) That the Committee welcome the presentation and chart on the Performance Framework.
- (3) That the Committee receives and update on the multi-disciplinary care and clinical governance team to satisfy concerns on sustainability issues and give details on the plans.

Exclusion of Press and Public

205. Resolved - That under Section 100(4) of the Local Government Act 1972, the public be excluded from the meeting for the following item of business on the grounds that it involves the likely disclosure of exempt information as defined in Part I, of Schedule 12A, of the Act by virtue of the paragraph specified under the item and that, in all the circumstances of the case, the public interest in maintaining the exemption of that information outweighs the public interest in disclosing the information.

Part II

Summary of Matters discussed in the absence of the Press and Public

PropCo – Land at Orchard Street, Chichester

(Exempt, paragraph 3, Financial or business affairs of any person (including the authority))

The Committee considered the business case for the Orchard Street Site and welcomed the level of detail included.

Resolved –

- (1) That the Committee welcomes the level of detail in the business case and would like future business cases to follow this model.
- (2) That the Committee will receive an amended business case if changes are required following the outcome of the planning committee decision.
- (3) That the Committee receive a report in 18 months outlining the outcome of the development.

Part I

Business Planning Group report

206. The Committee considered a report by the Chairman of the Business Planning Group (copy appended to the signed minutes).

207. The Senior Advisor introduced the report and informed the Committee that 4 Task and Finish Groups (TFGs) had recently completed. Members were also informed that they had been invited to the Annual General Meeting of the pension fund and that any issues from the meeting could be raised at a Committee meeting.

208. The Chairman of the Carers TFG reported that the final piece of work for the TFG was expected to be completed electronically, rather than a formal meeting. It was recognised that the implementation of the Care Act could require consideration by the TFG.

209. Resolved – That the Committee:

- (1) Notes the completed TFGs and their recommendations.
- (2) Recommends the Services for Young People TFG be reconvened to address the issues raised in the report.

Forward Plan of Key Decisions

210. The Committee considered the Forward Plan of Key Decisions April – July 2015 (copy appended to the signed minutes).

211. The Committee queried if the Future organisation of Storrington Area Schools (STARS) decision would be previewed by the Children and Young People's Services Select Committee (CYPSSC). - *The Chairman of CYPSSC reported that the design in the Forward Plan was not being previewed as it was only a decision on public consultation. The full proposal is intended to be scrutinised by the CYPSSC in the autumn.*

212. The Committee queried if the single hub plan in the Highways and Transport Transformation Proposals decision would lead to officers seeking travel costs. – *The Chairman of ECSSC reported that they had scrutinised this and discovered that travel costs would not be sought as hot desking would be utilised to allow staff to stay working in their local area.*

213. The Forward Plan was noted.

Date of Next Meeting

214. The Committee noted that its next scheduled meeting will take place on 16 April 2015 at 10.30am at County Hall, Chichester.

The meeting closed at 12.55 p.m.

Chairman.