

Performance and Finance Select Committee

20 May 2016 – At a meeting of the Select Committee held at 10.30 a.m. at County Hall, Chichester.

Present: Mrs Urquhart (Chairman)

Mr Glennon	Mr Lamb	Mr Montyn
Ms James	Mr McAra	
Mrs Kitchen	Mrs Millson	

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

Apologies for absence were received from Mr Cloake, Mr Rogers, Mr Turner, Mr Tyler, Mr Waight and Mr Watson.

Ms Goldsmith also sent her apologies for the meeting.

Mr Metcalfe was absent from the meeting.

Part I

Declarations of Interest

1. In accordance with the code of conduct, the following personal interests were declared:
 - Mr Montyn as a member of the Chichester Harbour Conservancy in relation to the Total Performance Monitor – Outturn 2015-16 item.
 - Mrs Millson as a member of the PropCo Panel in relation to the Business Planning Group Report.

Part I Minutes of the meeting held on 16 March 2016

2. Resolved – that the part I minutes of the Performance and Finance Select Committee held on 16 March 2016 be approved as a correct record, and that they be signed by the Chairman.

Part II Minutes of the meeting held on 16 March 2016

3. The Committee agreed that as they had no comments on the minutes it was not necessary to enter Part II to discuss their content.
4. Resolved – that the Part II minutes of the Performance and Finance Select Committee held on 16 March 2016 be approved as a correct record, and that they be signed by the Chairman.

BPG Appointments

5. The Chairman indicated that, as the new Vice Chairman of the Committee, Mr Montyn had also confirmed he was content to become Vice Chairman of the Business Planning Group (BPG).

6. Resolved – that the Committee appoints Mrs Urquhart (Ch), Ms James, Mrs Millson, Mr Montyn and Mr Waight to its BPG.

Total Performance Monitor – Outturn 2015-16

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

8. The Cabinet Member for Finance introduced the report which set out the County Council's Outturn 2015-16 performance position. It was confirmed that Appendix 1c contained details of underspends that had been agreed as carry forwards into 2016/17.

9. The Cabinet Member for Finance explained that the Performance Indicators were being adjusted to ensure the measures were appropriate. One change reflected the request made at the previous committee meeting relating to targets for Children Looked After.

10. The Cabinet Member for Finance apologised that the new Performance Indicators were not available for the meeting and resolved to circulate them virtually to the members for comment. The Committee agreed that they could discuss the new indicators at the June meeting if required.

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

- Queried the underspend in the Highways and Transport portfolio and if this related to slippages within project timetables. – *The Director of Finance explained that some of the projects were funded by the Local Growth Fund and slippages were linked to the delays in raising match funding. These projects would be progressed into the new financial year. Comments were made that a lack of consistency in Senior Management oversight on projects could have led to the failure in the delivery of Highway projects and that bids to the Local Growth Fund should only be made if the projects could be delivered. The Committee also commented that delays can come from developers when schemes were reliant on section 106 funding. It was hoped that the new monitoring systems for the Capital Programme would improve the process going forwards. – The Cabinet Member for Finance informed the Committee that specific queries on projects could be made to the Cabinet Member for Highways and Transport.*
- Questioned the overspend in the Children – Start of Life and asked what proportion of the spend related to unaccompanied children from the European Union and if there was support from the Government to help with the cost. – *The Director of Finance agreed to circulate details in relation to the request. A member of the Corporate Parenting Panel confirmed that the number of new unaccompanied asylum seekers had reduced.*
- Queried the specific costs for Children Looked After (CLA). – *The Director of Finance agreed to circulate details of the request. The Chairman reminded the Committee that a request was made at the February meeting to refer the issue of rising CLA costs to the Children and Young People's Services Select Committee (CYPSSC).*

- Asked if the targets relating to GVA and Average Earnings would be amended to reflect the introduction of the National Living Wage. – *The Director of Finance confirmed that this target would be reviewed.*
- Queried whether the County Council was satisfied with the 60% pupil achievement at key stage 4. – *The Cabinet Member for Finance explained that the measure did not infer that 40% of pupils had failed. The measure related to pupils achieving 5 A-C grades. Pupil attainment was always considered to ensure children met their potential. The Cabinet Member for Finance also confirmed that additional external support was being provided which would improve attainment levels.*
- Raised concerns on the issue of broadband and impact this had on rural businesses. The Committee requested details of broadband progress by area. – *The Director of Finance agreed to investigate broadband progress and provide this to the Committee.*
- Queried the dementia figures; specifically the number of new cases and the trend. – *The Cabinet Member for Finance agreed to investigate this and provide the details to the Committee.*

12. Resolved –

- (1) That the Monitor be noted.
- (2) That the Committee awaits the response from the CYPSSC and will then consider if further scrutiny is required.

West Sussex Local Growth Fund Bid 2016

13. The Committee considered a report by the Executive Director of Residents' Services (copy appended to the signed minutes).

14. The Committee agreed to enter Part II in order to discuss the West Sussex Local Growth Fund 3 bid which had been circulated as a Part II appendix

Exclusion of Press and Public

15. 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.

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

West Sussex Local Growth Fund Bid 2016

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

The Committee discussed the bids and raised questions on the process of the applications. The Committee welcomed the report and requested updates on the progress of the application bids.

Business Planning Group Report

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

21. The Senior Advisor introduced the report and updated the committee on the proposed agenda items that had been recommended by the BPG.

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

- Asked for clarification on the news that Capita was moving jobs outside of the UK and if this indicated a change in focus on the original contract intentions to retain jobs in the County. – *The Executive Director Corporate Resources and Services explained that of the two contracts held with Capita, the IT contract had scope to allow this. The County Council would need reasonable grounds to challenge this approach.*
- Requested an update on PropCo projects, specifically the Orchard Street development. – *The Executive Director Corporate Resources and Services agreed to circulate an update summary report to the Committee. The Orchard Street development was due to be reviewed at the September meeting of the Committee.*

23. Resolved –

- (1) That the Committee supports the updates to the work programme and notes the Task and Finish Group Rolling Programme.
- (2) That the Committee supports the proposal of the BPG to have an agenda item at the 30 September Committee meeting on the National Living Wage.

Forward Plan of Key Decisions

24. The Committee considered the Forward Plan of Key Decisions June – September 2016 (copy appended to the signed minutes).

25. The Forward Plan was noted.

Date of Next Meeting

26. The Committee noted that its next scheduled meeting will take place on 24 June 2016 at 10.30 a.m. at County Hall, Chichester.

27. The Committee also noted that a joint meeting with the Environmental and Community Services Select Committee was scheduled to take place on 22 June 2016 at County Hall, Chichester.

The meeting closed at 11.50 a.m.

Chairman.