

OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY COMMITTEE

Date and Time: Tuesday 8 November 2022 at 7.00 pm

Place: Council Chamber

Present:

Dorn (Chairman), Smith (Vice-Chairman), Axam, Butcher, Butler, Coburn, Davies, Engström, Farmer and Lamb (substitute for Cllr Wildsmith)

In attendance:

Officers:

Daryl Phillips	Chief Executive
Graeme Clark	Executive Director, Corporate
Mark Jaggard	Executive Director, Place
Steve Bennett	Digital, Customer & Change Manager
Adam Green	Countryside Manager
Alex Jones	Flood Risk Management Officer
Joanne Rayne	Finance & Property Manager
Phil Sheppard	Infrastructure Team Manager
Claire Lord	Committee Services Officer

43 MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING

The minutes of 27 September 2022 were confirmed and signed as a correct record.

44 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies had been received from Cllrs Wildsmith (substituted by Cllr Lamb) and Woods

45 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

Councillor Farmer declared an interest in Minute 8 as the Chairman of Hart Swimming Club

46 CHAIRMAN'S ANNOUNCEMENTS

Councillors were informed that due to the change in management structure, the role of Lead Officer for Overview and Scrutiny would be shared by Executive Directors for Corporate and Community.

47 PUBLIC PARTICIPATION (ITEMS PERTAINING TO THE AGENDA)

None.

48 RATIFICATION OF MEMBERSHIP OF DIRECTORATE SCRUTINY PANELS (PREVIOUSLY KNOWN AS SERVICE PANELS)

The Chairman advised members of the new Scrutiny Panel memberships.

In the short-term, members from the old Environmental and Technical Services Panel would join their relevant new Scrutiny Panel to ensure a smooth transition. The meeting agreed to this suggestion.

A query was raised about Scrutiny Panel meetings being open to non Overview and Scrutiny Committee members. It was explained that when the panels were set up it had been agreed that only Overview and Scrutiny members would sit on them.

DECISION

The Chairman’s recommended approach was agreed as below:

Board	Previous 4 Panels	New 3 x “Directorate Scrutiny Panels”
Community	Butcher, Butler, Wildsmith	Butcher, Butler, Woods
Corporate Services	Axam, Farmer, Smith	Axam, Farmer, Smith
Place	Coburn, Davies, Engström, Butler	Coburn, Engström, Butler
Environment	Axam, Farmer, Woods	

49 PLACE DIRECTORATE SCRUTINY PANEL FEEDBACK

A summary was given of the items raised at the meeting, which were detailed in the report. The meeting was reminded that the review had covered quarters 1 and 2 and included some elements relating to the transition of Environment and Technical Services into Place

The meeting noted

- The Panel had asked for effort and cost indicators to be added to the task list to help with prioritisation.

- Tier 2 savings had not yet been achieved.
- The Highways Agency Agreement Review was now included within Place.
- The Panel had requested a scoping exercise be carried out whilst the local plan review was currently in abeyance pending the outcome of the Government's Levelling Up agenda proposals.
- The water environment asset management plan had not progressed due to lack of resources.
- The Place Risk Register was to be reviewed and updated.

Concerns were raised about the Council's approach to Conservation Area Appraisals. It was agreed that a cross party, three-member Task and Finish Group would be set up to review the current arrangements to bring forward Conservation Area appraisals. The terms of reference to be agreed with the Chairman but would include engagement with Parish Councils.

Cllrs Farmer and Butler volunteered to serve on the Group and a nomination would come from the Liberal Democrat members. The Group were asked to report back to the meeting in either January or February.

DECISION

A cross party, three-member Task and Finish Group would be set up to review the current arrangements to bring forward Conservation Area appraisals. The terms of reference to be agreed with the Chairman but would include engagement with Parish Councils.

50 MEDIUM TERM FINANCIAL STRATEGY

The S151 officer introduced a presentation focused on two different elements. The first would be the 2023/24 emerging budget and MTFs. The second would be an update on how the current year was performing against budget. Members were reminded that in the current climate there was a lot of uncertainty and that certain assumptions had to be made until decisions were made nationally.

The Tier 2 savings within Place were discussed. Cllr Radley said Cabinet would be working with the Executive Director, Place to ensure that all Tier 2 savings would be achieved.

51 COMPLAINTS ANALYSIS Q2 JULY-SEPT 2022

Some concerns were raised about a couple of findings in the report. The meeting was told that management was working to improve how complaints were dealt

with and how the process and progress of complaints was communicated back to the complainant

52 MULTI-AGENCY FLOOD FORUM (MAFF)

The forum had been well attended with the Environmental Agency giving an update on the new Flood Warning service in Fleet as well as details on the Flood Alleviation Scheme.

It was noted that the forum had taken place in October and so had not taken into consideration any of the recent storms. Discussion took place around the recent flooding of Fleet Road, and it was confirmed that this incident had been fed back to Hampshire County Council (in its capacity as local highway authority).

53 FLEET POND GREEN CORRIDOR AND HARTLAND PARK MITIGATION WORKS

It was confirmed that stage 1 of the Fleet Pond project had been completed and congratulations were given to all involved.

In preparation for the commencement of Stage 2, a Fleet Pond Strategy Plan was being formulated, which would include a detailed project and spending plan. It was confirmed that all the works were going to be carried out within the £2m funding that had been identified.

54 CABINET WORK PROGRAMME

The cabinet work programme was noted.

It was noted that a Bad Debt write off item had been included. It was requested that this was put on the Overview and Scrutiny programme. This was agreed.

55 OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY WORK PROGRAMME

The Overview and Scrutiny work programme was noted and with the inclusion of the Bad Debt write off, agreed.

The meeting closed at 9.01 pm