

**Response from the meeting of Cabinet on the O&S Committee's Comments –
5 July 2023**

Item 5 – Resident Engagement Strategy

Scrutiny Comment:

The Committee did not scrutinise this report at the meeting, but the Chair had liaised with the Head of Housing on the recommendation to Cabinet he would propose to the Committee.

Recommendation:

To strengthen the Resident Engagement Strategy The Committee recommended to Cabinet that:

- (1) Cabinet asks the Portfolio Holder to define key measures of success and metrics that can be used to determine the impact of the strategy and the effective use of Council resources; and
- (2) Cabinet asks the Head of Housing to agree appropriate measures of success with tenants to understand the level of impact on their needs.

These measures should be made available on the Council's Dashboard.

Cabinet Response:

The recommendations in the report were approved, along with the following additional recommendation:

"that Cabinet asks the Portfolio Holder and Head of Housing to agree appropriate measures of success with tenants to understand the level of impact on their needs. These measures should be reported by way of an annual report to tenants and on the Council's Dashboard".

(The above will form a recommendation to Council on 26 September 2023)

Item 6 – Quarter 1 Budget Update 2023/24

Scrutiny Comment:

The Overview & Scrutiny Committee thanked officers for their work on the report.

It requested that in future budget setting, more visibility about the range of inflation rates used on the assumptions made is provided. Movement in the Council's Reserve funds should also be highlighted and an historical context to this should be provided to show the trend in movement.

The Committee was keen to see the use of more visual or graphical presentation in the report which will make the report aid easier understanding of the figures.

The Committee was concerned about the adverse position in relation to the waste contract. It will be asking that the next report it receives on its Work Programme relating to the waste and recycling contract (in October) includes a review of the finance considerations and will be asking that Finance provides support to the officer who will be writing the report. The level of reporting required should also be addressed in the report following on from conversations between the Chair and the Head of Finance.

Cabinet Response:

The recommendations in the report were approved.

Item 8 – Review of Significant Business Risk Register

Scrutiny Comment:

The Overview & Scrutiny Committee thanked officers for their work on the report.

Recommendation:

With the evolution of the new Corporate Strategy the Committee recommended to Cabinet that it should take the opportunity to re-examine the whole framework for reviewing and managing risk and assurance. This should include the structure of the Risk Register with a view to ensure that it is focussed on informing actions that the Council can take and risk ratings which are meaningful. Assurance is required to show that the process of management of risk is effective and this should be reflected in the reporting.

Cabinet Response:

The recommendations in the report, along with the following recommendation from the Overview & Scrutiny Committee were approved:

“With the evolution of the new Corporate Strategy, Cabinet should take the opportunity to re-examine the whole framework for reviewing and managing risk and assurance. This should include the structure of the Risk Register with a view to ensure that it is focussed on informing actions that the Council can take and risk ratings which are meaningful. Assurance is required to show that the process of management of risk is effective and this should be reflected in the reporting”.