

# Overview & Scrutiny Committee & Finance & Audit Scrutiny Committee held on 12 and 13 April 2022

## Summary of Comments made on the Cabinet Agenda for Wednesday 20 April 2022

4 Joint Governance – Stratford-on-Avon and Warwick District Councils
The Overview & Scrutiny Committee noted that the report had been withdrawn,
that this may impact on the planned integration of services with potentially a
delay to this. There were concerns around this and the Leader agreed to provide
clarification on the impact of this to Cabinet next week for all Councillors.

The Finance & Audit Scrutiny Committee noted that these items had been withdrawn from the Cabinet agenda and thanked Councillor Hales for attending. They welcomed the fact that all Councillors and staff, who are our most important asset, would be informed why these items had been withdrawn.

### 5 Inter-Authority Agreement between Stratford-on-Avon and Warwick District Council

The Overview & Scrutiny Committee noted that the report had been withdrawn, that this may impact on the planned integration of services with potentially a delay to this. There were concerns around this and the Leader agreed to provide clarification on the impact of this to Cabinet next week for all Councillors.

The Finance & Audit Scrutiny Committee noted that these items had been withdrawn from the Cabinet agenda and thanked Councillor Hales for attending. They welcomed the fact that all Councillors and staff, who are our most important asset, would be informed why these items had been withdrawn.

#### 6 Amendments to the Constitution

The Overview & Scrutiny Committee noted the recommendations and provided the following observations:

- 1. The Committee felt the clarification on the reasons why a report is confidential should be explained within the report itself to show how the information related back to the legal reason for it being exempt. It would also be useful if the report could provide a timescale/event for when it may be possible for the information to become public.
- 2. The PABs need to improve the consistency in their minute format to facilitate Councillors' understanding,
- 3. Consideration should be given if the PAB minutes could be public minutes.
- 4. Noted that the better description of items expected to go to PAB would be those items that propose significant change to a service.

The Finance & Audit Scrutiny Committee asked for all Councillors to be informed of how many Cabinet decisions, in the last 12 months, would have moved from being key decisions to no longer key decisions based on the change in the definition in the report.

The Finance & Audit Scrutiny Committee was content with the report with the exception of the following points:







That the wording of the remit of the new Audit and Standards Committee should be revised to highlight its role in reviewing risk for the Council.

That officers investigate the potential for the PAB agendas and minutes to be made public. That there should be a more consistent approach to the work of the PABs, and the format of their minutes.

The Committee welcomed the acknowledgment that the first year of the Audit and Standards Committee would be a learning process.

Councillors felt that current reports created a perception that Warwick District Council is changing its structures and procedures to align with Stratford District Council, and hoped that future reports will indicate where the reverse situation occurs.

#### 8 Significant Business Risk Register

The Finance & Audit Scrutiny Committee noted the risk register.

#### 9 HEART Shared Service Partnership

The Overview & Scrutiny Committee considered the report at length and had concerns about the cyclical nature of the concerning position set out in the report.

The Committed noted the recommendations in the report and agreed that a report be brought back to Scrutiny in six Months, unless a report is brought to Cabinet at that time on the progress/improvements made and if needed the options available to the Council to change the service.

The Committee thanked the Head of Housing and Portfolio Holder for their time in attending and engaging with the Committee on this report.

### 10 Masterplanning Framework for Land to the North and East of Kenilworth/South of Coventry

The Overview & Scrutiny Committee noted the report and proposals for providing the master planning framework to help recognise the constraints in the area and developing a collective vision. It welcomed the responses from officers and the reflection from this will be provided to the Cabinet.

The Committee suggested that the words Green Belt are set out within the document as this plan will have an impact on that.

The Committee welcomed the agreement to ensure that wider stakeholder groups will be involved in the consultative role. Whilst those to be involved will be agreed by the project board once it has been formed, it is expected that this will include local district councillors, local parish councils, residents groups, Stoneleigh Park, HS2, local major land owners along with Solihull MBC and Rugby BC.

The Overview & Scrutiny Committee recommended that at least one PAB should be involved for discussion and involvement in this area of work.

The Cabinet is required to vote on this because it forms a recommendation to it.

### 14. Creative Quarter / Future High Street

The Overview & Scrutiny Committee recommended a briefing update to all councillors regarding the project.

The Finance & Audit Scrutiny Committee noted the recommendations in the report.