

Overview and Scrutiny Committee

Minutes of the meeting held on Tuesday 25 May 2021 in the Town Hall, Royal Leamington Spa at 6.00 pm.

Present: Councillors Cullinan, A Dearing, J Dearing, Jacques, Kohler, Leigh-Hunt, Milton, Redford and Russell

1. **Apologies and Substitutes**

Councillors Grey, Margrave and Morris gave apologies for absence. Councillor Grey had been asked by Councillor Morris to substitute for him, but in the event, was unable to attend the meeting.

2. **Appointment of Chairman**

It was proposed by Councillor Kohler, duly seconded by Councillor Redford and

Resolved that Councillor Milton be appointed Chairman of the Committee for the ensuing municipal year.

The Chair thanked the Committee for their support and welcomed Councillors J Dearing and Leigh-Hunt to the Committee.

3. **Declarations of Interest**

There were no declarations of interest made.

4. **Minutes**

The minutes of the Overview and Scrutiny Committee meeting held on 20 April 2021 were unavailable for approval and would be presented at the next meeting in July.

5. **Review of the Work Programme, Forward Plan and Comments from the Executive**

The Committee considered its work programme for 2021/2022 as detailed at Appendix 1 to the report. There had been no reports to Executive called in for scrutiny at the April meeting.

The Chair had not yet spoken with the Programme Director for Climate Change on how the Committee would scrutinise the Climate Change work going forward.

The Service Area Dashboard was not providing information to Members in a way they found easy to interpret. Following discussions with officers, a proposal had been made that a small Task & Finish Group be constituted to look at the issues interpreting the data and what information was required by Scrutiny and then for officers to be asked to produce this information as required on a regular basis. Councillors Kohler, Cullinan and Jacques volunteered to be members of the Task & Finish Group. The T

& F Group would submit a Scope document to the O&S Committee for approval. Following advice from the Democratic Services Manager & Deputy Monitoring Officer, it was decided to proceed with the work required without the need to formalise it into a Task & Finish Group because it was felt that it would only require two to three meetings to complete the work of specifying what information was required, and it was likely that this information could be reported back to the Committee in July.

The Democratic Services Manager & Deputy Monitoring Officer reported that he, in consultation with the Chairs of both Scrutiny Committees, had held discussions with Ed Hammond from the Centre for Governance & Scrutiny about work to be done by the Committee on the proposed merger of Stratford District Council and Warwick District Council. Mr Hammond would be meeting with the Democratic Services Manager, the Chief Executive and the Chairs of both Scrutiny Committees to discuss requirements. Councillor Cullinan stressed the need to keep residents informed. Councillor Russell suggested that the way in which SDC measured its services performance should be examined. The Democratic Services Manager & Deputy Monitoring Officer informed the Committee that the Council had approved budget for looking at shared data.

Councillor Redford requested that the scrutiny work on the merger should have some form of measures built in to see the impact to services as the merger progressed to completion. She also asked that the Joint Transformation Programme Manager be invited to some of the discussions.

The Democratic Services Manager & Deputy Monitoring Officer informed the Committee that Council had adopted its recommendations for the call-in of Executive reports for scrutiny at its Annual Meeting in May.

Resolved that

- (1) Appendix 1 to the Work Programme report be noted; and
- (2) Councillors Cullinan, Kohler and Jacques will help with the work to ensure the Service Area Dashboard provides the right information in a manner understood by the Members for scrutiny work.

(The meeting ended at 6.18pm)

CHAIR
6 July 2021