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KIRKLEES COUNCIL

OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE

Monday 27th November 2017

Present: Councillor Julie Stewart-Turner (Chair)
Councillor Gulfam Asif
Councillor Elizabeth Smaje
Councillor Rob Walker

In attendance: Carol Gilchrist
Lee Hamilton
Nick Howe
Yolande Myers
Councillor Shabir Pandor
Councillor David Sheard – Leader of the Council
Chief Inspector Ian Mottershaw, West Yorkshire Police

Apologies: Councillor Cahal Burke

122 Membership of Committee

Apologies for absence were received from Cllr Cahal Burke.

123 Minutes of Previous Meeting

The minutes of the meeting of the Committee held on 18 September were approved as a correct record subject to the addition of the agreed action to update the Committee on the progress of flood risk management community pilots.

124 Interests

No interests were declared.

125 Admission of the Public

It was agreed that agenda item 12 would be considered in private session.

126 Council Leader and Deputy Leader Portfolio Priorities

The Management Committee welcomed Councillor David Sheard, Leader of the Council and Councillor Shabir Pandor, Deputy Leader to the meeting to set out their political priorities and vision for the Council over the current municipal year.

Councillor Pandor did a presentation which set out Kirklees vision and values before providing more detail on the administration priorities and achievements by portfolio area. The presentation included the following areas;

- Strategy and Strategic Resources, New Council and Regional Issues
- Adults and Public Health

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- Children
- Corporate
- Economy

Councillor Pandor emphasised how important the Council's work with the community was in engaging different communities to help the Council to achieve its vision. The Council would also need to work collaboratively with partners to address the challenges together.

In considering the presentation Management Committee discussed the relationship between Kirklees and the wider region and how Kirklees played an effective role at the Combined Authority which would maximise the benefits for Kirklees. Councillor Sheard recognised that Kirklees Council needed to sell itself on the national stage and to be proactive in meeting potential investors. The success of Huddersfield Town Football Club had helped to make Huddersfield a more recognisable name. Opportunities to promote the region as a whole, for example through the City of Culture award, would have opportunities for Kirklees.

The committee continued to discuss the outcomes that the Cabinet was looking to achieve, including managing performance, adopting a more intelligence led approach and early intervention and prevention. Management Committee asked that for each of the areas identified within the presentation, a list of the underpinning projects be provided.

The Management Committee discussed the importance of having a strong brand for the Kirklees Council area. Councillor Sheard was asked about the key industries within Kirklees and how strategic work with our partners was seeking to strengthen the opportunities afforded by large employers such as engineering. The importance of attracting young people to the area with a view to them becoming part of the local economy once they had gained appropriate qualifications was explored. The work of the Business Hub was identified and the need to adapt qualifications could be adapted to ensure local employers were able to recruit young people with appropriate skills sets.

Councillor Smaje raised the issue of health and social care training and whether the Council was happy to be an enabler or to be more progressive in trying to address the resource concerns. Councillor Sheard indicated that work had been going on with the Technical College to look at levels of attainment. Within social care Kirklees was seen as the market leader in the Leeds City Region. A report was being considered by the Leeds City Region concerning minimum standards for health and social care employees. The Council needed to consider how that was incorporated within contracts and contract management.

Councillor Stewart-Turner identified that the Transformation Programme had a large IT focus to help drive transformation however, it was questioned how the underpinning cultural shift would be achieved. Councillor Pandor indicated that IT was a small part of the overall programme and the Corporate Scrutiny Panel would

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be looking in more detail at the programme. Councillor Stewart-Turner emphasised that as part of transformation It would be important to ensure that staff and Councillors were 'on board' and understood the transformation journey. Councillor Pandor acknowledged that communications did need further consideration but he welcomed the introduction of the Citizens Account which would help to provide information to individual citizens.

The Management Committee thanked Councillor Sheard and Councillor Pandor for their attendance and agreed to schedule a further discussion at a later date.

RESOLVED -

(1) That Councillor Sheard and Councillor Pandor be thanked for attending the meeting and setting out their portfolio priorities.

(2) That the OSMC be provided with a list of the projects that underpin each of the priority areas.

(3) That the Leader and Deputy Leader of the Council be invited to a future meeting of the OSMC for further discussion of portfolio priorities.

127 Effective Regional Working Progress Report

The Management Committee received an update on regional working from Nick Howe, Corporate Policy Officer. The report indicated that Kirklees Council had been a strong advocate and participant in regional working. Leeds City Region (LCR) Partnership was formed by eleven local authorities at a city region summit in 2004. The current arrangements included informal regional working and consensus to realise the potential for the region for cross boundary working alongside the private sector.

The report highlighted key milestones including;

- Leaders Board formally constituted as a joint committee in 2007
- Establishment of business- led Local Enterprise Partnership and Strategic Plan in 2011
- City deals signed in 2012 with Government to manage devolved transport budget through a new Combined Authority.
- West Yorkshire Combined Authority founded on 1 April 2014 by five West Yorkshire District Councils. City of York Council and Leeds City Region Enterprise Partnership are associate members.

The report outlined the continued importance of regional working for Kirklees communities. The ability to contribute to growth and share in benefits, through the Strategic Economic Plan was highlighted. The City Region Growth Deal Fund was the largest settlement in the country. Future government funding opportunities would be administered through the partnership and the quality of life for communities was dependent on the success of the wider West Yorkshire and Leeds City Region partnerships. Connectivity remained a major issue particularly in the ability to access employment centres across the district. Kirklees has the highest net flow of workers to the Leeds City Region. It was also important for freight movements for numerous small and medium sized enterprises.

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The Leeds City Region provided a strong collective voice and there was widespread recognition that housing markets and connectivity in local economies did not reflect administrative boundaries. Strong partnership working is essential to economic resilience together with the efficiencies and innovations that working together brings.

The Management Committee continued to note the benefits and successes of regional working which included the local growth deal which provided a £1bn package of devolved government investment over a 6 year period. To date Kirklees had benefitted from approximately £37.5 million investment from the WYCA and the LEP to boost the local economy and create jobs. The report listed examples of areas that had realised benefits which included Kirklees College's process manufacturing centre and 96 Kirklees based SMEs.

The report highlighted key projects in Kirklees that had benefited from investment and support which included;

- Involvement in the 20 year West Yorkshire – plus Transport Fund
- Improvements to rail gateways including investment in Huddersfield station and a rail park and ride package across West Yorkshire.
- £6.4 million local transport plan investment in Kirklees
- £15.1 million investment approved for the Kirklees College learning quarter
- Over £1.6 million support for apprenticeships in Kirklees
- A recent award of £500,000 to support people in Kirklees out of fuel poverty.

In considering the report the Management Committee welcomed the ongoing work at a regional level but asked how projects were moving forward. Mr Howe indicated that since the initial tranche of funding as part of the growth deals scheme there had been no additional monies for the Combined Authority. At the next meeting there will be discussion on a key scheme around the M62. In the interim whenever there is the opportunity, the Combined Authority continues to lobby for the additional funding to deliver strategic schemes.

The Scrutiny Committee continued to explore the strength of the Kirklees voice at regional level and the ability to influence Kirklees schemes and objectives. Mr Howe circulated copies of the governance arrangements at regional level which included details of Kirklees's representation. It was acknowledged that the position regarding the devolution of additional powers from central government, in line with an elected mayor model had not yet been resolved.

The Management Committee sought assurance that there were priority bids ready should any pots of funding become available. Mr Howe undertook to supply the Management Committee with details of the pipeline of potential project bids.

RESOLVED -

(1) That Nick Howe, Policy Officer be thanked for his informative update on regional working

(2) That OSMC members be provided with a list of projects that are prepared pending funding.

128 Lead Member Update Reports

The Management Committee received progress reports from the Chair and the four Scrutiny Panel Lead Members on the highlights of panel work since the last meeting of the Scrutiny Committee.

Councillor Stewart-Turner highlighted her attendance to observe meetings of the standing panels and highlighted the range of issues being tackled. She had enjoyed seeing so many people engaged in scrutiny work and making a constructive contribution to the work of the panels. Councillor Stewart-Turner also highlighted the recent discussions at Council of Ad-Hoc Scrutiny Panel reports which had been both constructive and complimentary.

Councillor Stewart-Turner confirmed she had discussions concerning regional decision making, Prevent and community cohesion which had been included within the Overview Scrutiny Management Committee forward work programme. Councillor Stewart-Turner had regular briefings with the Chief Executive. There was an intention that the Leader and Deputy Leader of the Council be invited to join the Chief Executive for future briefings.

The lead member report from Councillor Cahal Burke highlighted the recent work of the Children's Scrutiny Panel which included discussions on Elective Home Education, corporate performance, PHSE and the improvement partnership with Leeds Council. The Children's Panel had agreed to recommend to the Management Committee that an ad-hoc scrutiny panel be established to look at Elective Home Education.

Councillor Gulfam Asif, lead member for the Corporate Scrutiny Panel outlined the work undertaken by the panel at meetings on 20 October and 15 November 2017. The panel had undertaken a visit to the Customer Service Centre and was impressed at the seamless service offer. It was noted that a new scanning system had been developed for the service which had been successfully marketed to other local authorities and generated income for the Council. Panel members were also able to see a demonstration of the new citizens' account and provided feedback. At the next meeting in January 2018 the scrutiny panel would continue to look at aspects of the Transformation Programme.

Councillor Rob Walker lead member for the Economy & Neighbourhoods Scrutiny Panel outlined the work that had been undertaken between September and the end of November 2017. It was reported that the Scrutiny Panel had agreed on three broad topic areas which were;

- Housing

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- Transport
- Towns and communities.

In drilling down into each area it was agreed that the housing item would initially focus on the availability and demand for supported housing and the plans for the review of the housing allocations policy by 31 March 2018. Opportunities to improve on the current figures for affordable new homes for purchase or rental was identified.

Councillor Walker reported that he had a briefing with officers to discuss the approach to corporate performance reports and intended to consider the details of the quarter 1 and quarter 2 reports in December 2017. He'd also met with cabinet members to discuss items in the agenda plan, including key decision items, which may benefit from pre scrutiny work.

Councillor Liz Smaje, lead member of the Health & Adult Social Care Scrutiny Panel updated on her lead member briefings which included meeting with Strategic Directors, portfolio holders, NHS trusts, Locala and the two Clinical Commissioning Groups.

Panel meetings on 3 October and 14 November had included discussions on the robustness of Adult Social Care, the Health Optimisation Programme, podiatry services, integration of health and adult social care and proposed interim changes concerning elderly medicine, cardiology and respiratory services. As a result of the issues looked at the scrutiny panel have made a number of recommendations aimed at improving the quality of health and social care services within the Kirklees district.

Further informal follow up sessions would also be taking place to look at the issues raised by the Ad-Hoc Scrutiny Panel on Adult Mental Health Assessments, in particular issues relating to dual diagnosis.

Looking further ahead the December meeting would look at the work of the Kirklees Health & Wellbeing Board. Early in 2018 there would be an update on the financial position of the Clinical Commission Groups and acute trusts and a look at concerns raised about the quality of wheelchair services in Kirklees.

RESOLVED - Agreed that the Lead Member Reports be received and noted.

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Request to Establish an Ad Hoc Scrutiny Panel

The Management Committee considered a request from the Children's Scrutiny Panel to establish an Ad-Hoc Scrutiny Panel to look at elective home education.

In considering the request it was noted that the numbers of electively home educated children and young people was increasing in the Kirklees district, in line with neighbouring local authorities and national trends. Responsibility for children's education rests with their parents. In England, education is compulsory but school is not.

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In Kirklees the oversight of EHE is the responsibility of the Education Safeguarding team which works in partnership with other relevant teams or agencies to provide support to families when needed. However local authorities have a statutory duty in relation to monitoring the quality of home education on a routine basis. The proposed ad-hoc scrutiny panel would consider the reasons why parents choose home education and how best to support children and parents throughout their education, giving particular consideration to children who would like to sit their GCSE exams. The draft terms of reference for the ad-hoc panel were appended to the report.

RESOLVED -

(1) That an ad hoc scrutiny panel be established to consider Elective Home Education

(2) That the terms of reference be expanded to include progression into higher and further education or employment.

130 Appointment of Scrutiny Co-optee

Following a report at the previous meeting it was noted that an additional voluntary co-optee was required to sit on the Corporate Scrutiny Panel. Following consultation with the Chair of Scrutiny and the panel lead member, Philip Chaloner had been approached to see if he wished to return as a scrutiny co-optee for the remainder of the 2017/18 municipal year.

RESOLVED - That Philip Chaloner be appointed as a voluntary scrutiny co-optee on the Corporate Scrutiny Panel for the remainder of the 2017/18 municipal year.

131 Scrutiny Committee Work Programme/Future Meetings Schedule

The Committee confirmed that its next meeting will be held on Monday 15 January 2018 at 10.00am at Huddersfield and will be followed at 12.30pm by the New Year co-optee gathering. In addition the Management Committee agreed that a further meeting would be held on 26 February 2018. This meeting would include considering scrutiny arrangements within the Combined Authority and looking at the corporate approach to performance management. In considering the items for the next meeting it was requested that the flood risk management update be asked to include an update on work with Yorkshire Water. The update would also include information on the joint work being undertaken with the Combined Authority on flood risk management.

It was agreed that the Democracy Commission item would be removed from the Management Committee work programme and any work covered by the Corporate Scrutiny Panel.

RESOLVED -

(1) That the Flood Risk Management Update be asked to include an update on work with Yorkshire Water.

(2) That the update also include an update on the joint work with the Combined Authority on flood risk management.

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(3) That the Democracy Commission item be removed from the work programme and the issue covered by the Corporate Scrutiny Panel.

(4) That an additional meeting of the Committee be scheduled for the 26 February 2017 at 10.00 a.m.

132 Exclusion of the Public

The Committee resolved that the following item would be considered in private session.

To resolve that That acting under Section 100(A)(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 1 of Schedule 12A of the Act.

133 Scrutiny of Crime and Disorder

The Management Committee considered a report on the current picture of gang related activity within the Kirklees district and an overview of the partnership approach which emphasised the focus on prevention and early intervention. The report included some of the key areas of work currently being undertaken and recommendation of problem solving and further development to move towards a stronger partnership approach to tackling street gangs and safeguarding communities.

The committee welcomed Carol Gilchrist, Head of Communities, Ian Mottershaw, Chief Inspector Partnerships and Lee Hamilton, Prevent Coordinator for the discussion.

RESOLVED -

(1) That a further progress report be considered in six months.

(2) That consideration be given to raising councillor awareness of the issue, including producing an information sheet.

(3) That consideration be given to the use of social media as part of awareness raising on the issue and early behaviour indicators