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## KIRKLEES COUNCIL

### CORPORATE SCRUTINY PANEL

**Friday 12th July 2019**

Present: Councillor Andrew Cooper (Chair)  
Councillor John Lawson  
Councillor Will Simpson  
Councillor John Taylor

Co-optees Nathan Paul

Apologies: Councillor Mahmood Akhtar  
Councillor James Homewood  
Philip Chaloner (Co-Optee)

**1 Minutes of the Previous Meeting**

The minutes of the meeting held on 12 April 2019 were approved as a correct record.

**2 Interests**

No interests were declared.

**3 Admission of the Public**

It was agreed that all agenda items would be considered in public session.

**4 Deputations/Petitions**

There were no deputations or petitions received.

**5 Public Question Time**

No public questions were received.

**6 Request for Late Urgent Item**

It was agreed that the late item entitled Leaving the EU Preparations be considered at the meeting.

**7 Work Programme 2019/20**

The scrutiny panel considered areas of work for inclusion in the work programme for 2019/20. A draft programme was attached to inform the discussion.

Councillor Graham Turner, Cabinet Member for the corporate portfolio informed the panel that his priorities for his portfolio were, financial planning and monitoring to deliver the budget; the Asset Strategy including Kirklees Active Leisure; Corporate landlord issues and access to services, including the Library service. Councillor Turner also advised that the Commercial Strategy was currently being developed and would be available for discussion with the panel in the autumn.

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The panel agreed to adopt the draft work programme and add the development of the Commercial Strategy to it. Cllr Taylor also suggested that the Panel should look at the evolving work to support councillors in their wards and localities. Councillor Cooper advised that the Overview and Scrutiny Management Committee would be considering how best to scrutinise place based working as a number of panels had identified it as a potential issue. He would feedback to the panel on the outcomes of that discussion.

### **RESOLVED -**

- (1) That the key priorities identified by Cllr Turner for the Cabinet corporate portfolio in 2019/20 be noted.
- (2) That the Development of a Commercialisation Strategy be added to the work programme with a view to the panel considering a more detailed proposal later in 2019.
- (3) That the Corporate Panel would like to look at the development of the strands of Place Based Working, subject to the views of the Overview and Scrutiny Management Committee.
- (4) That the proposed work programme as set out in the agenda be agreed, with the inclusion of the additional issues identified at the meeting.

### **8 Leaving the EU Preparations**

The Panel considered a late agenda item which provided a position statement on Kirklees Council's preparations in respect of the UK leaving the European Union on 31 October 2019.

The report advised that a tactical group involving officers from the Council and partner organisations had been operational for several months. The group provided updates to the Council's Executive on the level of preparedness and likely scenarios following the UK's exit from the EU. A tactical plan had been developed, supported by an action plan which helped to monitor and address key issues such as:

- Business continuity
- Businesses
- Supply chains and logistics
- Workforce
- Vulnerable people
- Cohesion
- Communication

The Council actively participated in the West Yorkshire Resilience Forum which contributed to regional returns to government on key issues affecting local authorities in the region.

In considering the report the panel asked if national government was carrying out any impact analysis work with local authorities. It was noted that this was being

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done at sector level with West Yorkshire Combined Authority working with Chambers of Commerce to regularly gather business intelligence.

The panel discussed the financial risk and asked how the Council's Treasury Team was planning to mitigate risk. It was agreed that the panel would look at this as part of its financial monitoring work. The panel also asked for information on critical processes or systems within the Council that are dependent on EU partners.

Whilst recognising that there were a lot of unknowns the panel asked to understand the immediate impacts at its November panel meeting, immediately after the EU exit date. A report could also be brought to an earlier meeting if there was anything further to report.

The panel recommended that the preparation work with looked after children should be extended to care leavers up the age of 25.

### **RESOLVED -**

- (1) The Panel noted the report and supporting the tactical plan and corporate risk register.
- (2) That a future report include financial risks as part of treasury management preparation; details of critical processes within the Council that are currently dependent on partners in the EU
- (3) The Panel recommended that the care leavers age range within the report be extended to 25.
- (4) That the Panel consider a further report, once detail is available, prior to the 31 October exit date.

## **9 Dates Of Meetings 2019/20**

The Panel considered the schedule of meetings for the 2019/20 municipal year. It was agreed that meeting of the panel would be held on:

- Friday 20 September 2019 – 10.00am
- Friday 18 October 2019 – 10.00am
- Friday 15 November 2019 – 2.00pm
- Friday 10 January 2020 – 10.00am
- Friday 28 February 2020 – 10.00am
- Friday 27 March 2020 – 10.00am