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KIRKLEES COUNCIL

OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE

Monday 22nd July 2019

Present: Councillor Elizabeth Smaje (Chair)
Councillor Andrew Cooper
Councillor Harpreet Uppal
Councillor Andrew Marchington
Councillor Habiban Zaman

13 Membership of Committee

There were no apologies.

14 Minutes of Previous Meeting

The minutes of the meeting held on 17 June 2019 were agreed as a correct record.

15 Interests

Cllr Cooper and Cllr Uppal declared an other interest in item 9, Overview of Climate Emergency Working Party, as they were members of the working party.

16 Admission of the Public

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

17 Deputations/Petitions

No deputations or petitions were received.

18 Public Question Time

There were no questions from members of the public.

19 Effective Regional Working in Kirklees

The Overview and Scrutiny Management Committee considered a report which provided an overview of regional working and set out key work areas for the coming year.

New members of the Committee noted that Kirklees work at regional level contributed to growth and a share in the benefits of the Leeds City Region which was aiming for an extra £5.2bn of additional economic output, achieving 62,000 extra jobs. Future government funding opportunities are likely to come through and be administered by the Leeds City Region Partnership. In terms of funding and investment Kirklees has successfully secured upwards of £140m from the growth deal and transport fund pots. Schemes about to commence on site included the A62 smart corridor and the A629 phase 5 in Huddersfield.

The report continued to outline other headline projects that had benefited in Kirklees including the 3 enterprise zones and the superfast broadband contract. Kirklees

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small and medium sized enterprises had drawn down 19% of all grants approved from just a 13% SME base across West Yorkshire.

The report continued to set out the objectives and outcomes for regional working over the next 12 months which included:

- Continued progress and delivery of major schemes
- Identifying Kirklees's key priorities
- Delivering Kirklees's ambitions
- Ensuring that Kirklees continues to take advantage of future investment
- Improved collaboration with neighbours
- Working with West Yorkshire Combined Authority to increase the focus on town centre regeneration to support the Town Centre Master Plan.
- Make the most of cultural, tourism and sporting opportunities
- Ensure the Council is in a position to take advantage of future rail investment
- Influence the One Yorkshire proposals for devolution
- Improve support to Councillors to understand what is going on with regional working

Appended to the report were the details of the West Yorkshire Combined Authority Committee appointments and representatives for Kirklees for 2019/20 together with information on the governance arrangements.

In considering the report Cllr Cooper questioned how proposals at a regional level, including use of the transport fund, dovetailed with climate emergency considerations including the target to reduce emissions. Angela Blake, Service Director, Economy and Skills advised that no detailed appraisal scheme had yet been developed but there was a need to build climate emergency considerations into the appraisal of new schemes. Cllr Cooper indicated that the Green Economy Panel at Leeds City Region had a quasi scrutiny role to look at all policies.

The Committee continued to discuss Kirklees business grants and asked for a breakdown to be provided on how grants with distributed between new businesses and existing businesses. There was discussion on the distribution of funding from the City Region as a whole and how Kirklees compared with adjacent authorities. Ms Blake indicated that Kirklees compared well with neighbouring authorities however less so with Leeds or Bradford. The Committee continued to discuss the transparency of combined authority decision making. It was now possible to see details of projects on the Combined Authority website but it was suggested that information should be cascaded to be more available in Kirklees. There was currently no information, unless that came through in the form of consultation, about what is happening and the progress of schemes. Whilst Councillors attending West Yorkshire Combined Authority meetings may receive information, this was not cascaded and members of the public were not able to feed into the process. The Committee suggested that Kirklees members of the West Yorkshire Combined Authority needed to be supported to feed back information to ensure a greater level of transparency.

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The Committee discussed how inequality was impacted as part of funding considerations. Ms Blake agreed equality had to be part of any appraisal system moving forward.

RESOLVED -

- (1) The Committee thanked Angela Blake for the update on regional working
- (2) That statistical information be provided on the types of businesses receiving grants
- (3) That further clarification be provided on the appraisal process for funding, including how councillors are made aware of outcomes for Kirklees projects.
- (4) That further information be provided on how equalities issues are considered as part of appraisal processes.

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Domestic Abuse Strategy 2019-21

Saf Bhuta, Head of Safeguarding and Quality attended the meeting to provide an update on the progress of the revised Domestic Abuse Strategy. The Committee noted that the revised Domestic Abuse Strategy would be considered by Cabinet on 10 September 2019. The report continued to set out the background to the strategy including the shift in emphasis to a 'whole picture response' to domestic abuse that encourages a focus on prevention. Governance of the area of domestic abuse is undertaken by the Kirklees Communities Board and is a priority within the Safer Kirklees Partnership Plan.

The report continued to set out the strategic vision for the next 3 years underpinned by 4 strategic priorities which were:

- Act before someone harms or is harmed
- Identify and stop harmful behaviours
- Increase safety for those at risk
- Supporting people to live the lives they want after harm occurs

Each priority will be supported by an action plan with an agreed set of measures which would be supported by service specific performance measures.

The Committee noted that the domestic abuse strategic partnership had been working with the council's policy team and communications team to draw up an engagement period over the summer, which included staff engagement sessions and a Councillor training programme; raising awareness of domestic abuse through supporting preventative work and other campaigns; and a robust communications plan for when any domestic homicide reviews had been approved for publication by the Home Office. A copy of the current version of the strategy was appended for comment. In considering the report the committee explored how the partnership would take forward the work and asked that copies of the action plans, when available be shared with the committee.

Cllr Cooper asked how the additional budget allocation of £400k for domestic abuse would be allocated. Mr Bhuta identified 3 key areas:

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- Sustain critical services, including the independent domestic violence advocates
- Fund a learning and development officer
- Community development work including network development, place based work and identifying good practice

The Committee asked for a breakdown of how much of the funding would be supporting existing activity and what budget would be used for transformational and new activity. It was noted that the new place based leads would be including domestic abuse as potential areas for funding using the locality monies agreed at Annual Council. The discussion continued to look at the challenges around provision of supported accommodation at a local level. Saf Bhuta agreed to provide further information on this issue. The committee also welcomed the increased awareness raising in schools and improved communication to better support young people who had witnessed or been victims of domestic abuse.

RESOLVED -

- (1) Saf Bhuta was thanked for attending the meeting to present the report.
- (2) That a copy of the Action Plan supporting the strategy be circulated to the committee once it has been approved by the strategic partnership.
- (3) That further information on accommodation issues, including sufficiency and timelines, be provided.
- (4) That updated prevalence information be circulated.
- (5) That a breakdown on the allocation of funding be provided to indicate existing services and other areas of investment to progress strategic change.
- (6) That consideration be given to the clarity of the governance system.

21 **Kirklees Climate Emergency Declaration - Update on the Work of the Council Working Party**

The Management Committee considered a progress report on work to deliver the actions required by the council's motion declaring a climate emergency. Cllr Murgatroyd, Chair of the Climate Emergency Working Party, Cllr Mather, Cabinet Portfolio Holder and John Atkinson, Economic Resilience Project Officer attended the meeting to discuss the report.

The report reminded councillors that the council passed a motion in January 2019 which established a councillor led climate emergency working party to oversee the development of a report and action plan on how the council might be proactive in addressing the impacts of the climate emergency.

The Committee noted that the Council's existing carbon emission reduction targets were as follows:

- Council – to achieve a 40% reduction in carbon emissions by 2020-21 based on the 2005-06 base line. Progress 2017/18 – 32% reduction
- District wide – to achieve a 40% reduction in district carbon emissions by 2020-21 – progress in 2016 35% reduction.

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The report continued to explain the approach being taken by the Climate Emergency Working Party to carry out an audit of council services to look at areas where significant carbon savings could be made. The results of the ongoing audit would inform the action plan to be included in the Working Party's report to Council. The work was closely aligning to the council's approach to air quality management under the clean and green corporate priority.

It was noted that the council had also sought external advice and best practice to help inform its work. It was likely that a Kirklees climate partnership body would be required to take forward any agreed action plan.

Prior to the discussion Cllrs Cooper and Uppal declared an other interest in the item as they were both members of the Climate Emergency Working Party. Councillor Murgatroyd, Chair of the Working Party explained the challenges faced by the group as the issues cut across all areas of council work. The Working Party had taken a themed approach to try to identify work that was currently under way to mitigate climate emergency issues as well as what the council might do if resources could be prioritised. The Working Party recognised that communications was a critical issue both with staff in the council but also with the wider public.

One of the biggest challenges was the limited staff resources to support the audit work as the council no longer had a dedicated environment unit. Funding had been sought to provide additional resources to support the work.

The Committee asked that it be provided with more detail on the milestones for the working party and the plan of how work was being undertaken. The Committee noted the Leeds city region target of net zero carbon by 2038 and asked how achievable that was for the council based on the current carbon reduction achieved. Mr Atkinson explained that the remit of the CEWP was to pursue a district wide approach not just the council and the council would track its own admissions from primary data. Government data sets would be available to enable the council to create carbon pathways for the future. A tool developed by the Tindall Centre would help support understanding the Kirklees position.

The Scrutiny Committee considered it important to look at the current base of what we have already achieved and can build on. It was agreed that in looking to achieve the Leeds City Region target of zero net carbon by 2038 it was very ambitious and would require increased action year on year.

RESOLVED -

- (1) Councillor Naheed Mather, Cllr Richard Murgatroyd and John Atkinson were thanked for attending the meeting.
- (2) That consideration be given to the points raised in the discussion including:
 - Linkage to the draft carbon budget
 - Identifying existing projects that can continue to form part of achieving the revised target.
 - Consideration of how strategic opportunities and partnership working is reflected in the report / action plan to Council.
- (3) That future reports include, where appropriate, timescales and milestones.

22 The Scrutiny Work Programme 2019/20

Following discussions at scrutiny panel meetings, the Management Committee considered the final versions of the proposed work plans for the four scrutiny panels.

In considering the proposed work programmes it was noted that the issue of preparation for leaving the European Union would be covered within the Corporate Scrutiny Panel. However where there were areas of specific economic focus these could be considered within the Economy and Neighbourhoods Panel.

Three panels had identified place based working as an area of interest however it was agreed that the initial briefing on the issue would be considered by the Overview & Scrutiny Management Committee. The commercial strategy had also been added to the Corporate Scrutiny Panel work programme.

When looking at the Children's Scrutiny Panel work programme the issue of children's adolescent mental health services had been identified and the lead member for the children's panel and the lead member for the health & adult social care scrutiny panel were asked to ensure there was no duplication in work on mental health services.

In respect of the Economy & Neighbourhoods Scrutiny Panel it was noted inclusive growth would be considered by the Management Committee in the first instance as it was linked to the responsibilities of the Council Leader at regional level. The Economy & Neighbourhoods Panel also intended to look at sustainable transport in particular public transport. Community Infrastructure Levy and section 106 funding was also included on the programme as current work was being undertaken to look at the effective use of the funding.

Cllr Smaje suggested that the committee might wish to look at the outcomes of the corporate peer review but agreed in the first instance to discuss those at her Chair's briefing with the Chief Executive.

RESOLVED -

- (1) The Committee noted verbal updates on work programme issues, following further discussions at Panel meetings.
- (2) The Corporate Scrutiny Panel would lead on Council preparations for leaving the European Union. Detailed economic or business considerations could go to the Economy and Neighbourhoods Scrutiny Panel.
- (3) The Scrutiny Committee will take the lead on place based working and keep under review whether scrutiny panels need to look at particular areas of focus.
- (4) That consideration be given to the way forward by Lead Members for Children's and Health and Adult Social Care Panels if there is a risk of overlap in looking at access to mental health support.
- (5) Inclusive growth will be considered by the OSMC as part of a regional update.
- (6) The Economy and Neighbourhoods Scrutiny Panel will also consider the outcomes for the new ward based action team approach.

23 Scrutiny Communications

The Management Committee noted that the annual report was being prepared for consideration at Council in September. Cllr Smaje also asked that each standing panel provide one article on recent work to form part of a bulletin to also be made available for September Council. The bulletin would also include areas of scrutiny coming up in future meetings.

The Committee was asked if Councillors would take part in short video clips to explain their role as lead members and chair of scrutiny. The Committee agreed to this request.

RESOLVED -

- (1) The Committee noted that the Scrutiny Annual Report would be considered at Council in September 2019.
- (2) It was agreed that all Lead Members would identify one issue to include in a Scrutiny Bulletin to be prepared in time for Council In September.

24 Scrutiny Committee Work Programme 2019/20

The proposed work programme for the scrutiny committee was noted subject to the inclusion of the areas that had been discussed as part of the wider scrutiny work programme item.

RESOLVED -

- (1) The Committee noted its work programme for the 2019/20 municipal year.

25 Date of Next Meeting

It was agreed that the next meeting of the Committee would be held on Monday 9 September 2019.