

Contact Officer: Helen Kilroy

KIRKLEES COUNCIL

CORPORATE SCRUTINY PANEL

Friday 18th October 2019

Present: Councillor Andrew Cooper (Chair)
Councillor Mahmood Akhtar
Councillor James Homewood
Councillor John Lawson
Councillor Will Simpson
Councillor John Taylor

Co-optees Philip Chaloner

In attendance: Andy Simcox, Service Director (Strategy and Innovation)
Nick McMillan, Directorate Performance Lead

Observers: Councillor Graham Turner
Eamonn Croston, Service Director for Finance and
Section 151 Officer

Apologies: Julie Muscroft

1 Minutes of the Previous Meeting

RESOLVED -

That the minutes of the meeting held on the 20 September 2019 be agreed as a correct record.

2 Interests

No interests were declared.

3 Admission of the Public

That all items be considered in public session.

4 Deputations/Petitions

No deputations or petitions were received.

5 Public Question Time

No questions from the public were received.

6 Quarter 1 Corporate Performance Report

The Panel considered a report giving an overview of the Council's corporate performance at the end of Quarter 1 2019/20 in respect of those aspects that related to the Corporate Plan aspiration to 'work smart and deliver effectively and efficiently' presented by Andy Simcox, Service Director (Strategy and Innovation) and Nick McMillan, Directorate Performance Lead.

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Andy Simcox advised the Panel that the Council was moving towards more outcome focussed performance monitoring which would be intelligence led in how decisions were made and data would be monitored to help set future priorities. The Panel was informed that a monthly business critical report was considered by the Executive Team, which outlined risks and actions that needed to be addressed as a priority.

Nick McMillan advised the Panel that sickness absence was reducing and that a lot of work was being undertaken in conjunction with Employee Healthcare. The Council was looking overall at spend on agency staff, which was currently in a state of influx within the organisation.

The Panel raised questions and requested further information on the following key areas:-

- Council's future ambition on sickness absence, benchmarking with other West Yorkshire Local Authorities and good news stories – officers agreed to explore whether this information could be included in future performance reports;
- Transformation within the organisation which has had an impact on the reduction in agency spend should be explained in future reports;
- Improvements on the Local Wealth Creation, the Council's future ambition and benchmarking with other West Yorkshire Local Authorities – officers agreed to explore whether this could be included in future reports;
- Mental health and whether it was effectively represented in the performance data and was it having an impact in terms of staff absences;
- Launch of Volunteering Scheme and whether a link was being made to staff in Kirklees who could help with volunteering opportunities. The Panel agreed to consider a report to a future meeting on the Volunteering offer, including details of the prospectus and volunteering opportunities and how this could be further promoted by the Council;
- Carers were being missed as part of Inclusion and Diversity and that some staff had individual caring responsibilities and were these being tracked and the appropriate support provided by the Council.

In response to a question from the Panel regarding Procurement, whether any improvements had been made over the last few months and could the Council develop its own methodology internally to compare and obtain monthly reports, Nick McMillan advised that resources were being built into the Performance Team to analyse this data more effectively. The Panel was informed that an Analyst had recently been appointed who would look at this data and methodology and prepare regular reports.

In response to a question from the Panel about whether Panel Members could be given the opportunity to explore data in more detail, Nick McMillan advised that intelligence software had recently been purchased with a view to developing dashboards to enable self-service to access data sets. The Panel requested that they be consulted on the early development and testing of these dashboards for self-service access to data.

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In response to a question from the Panel regarding working environments for staff and whether where there were issues that could be impacting on sickness absence, Andy Simcox advised that better use needed to be made of mobile and agile working, but that issues with working environments in some buildings were being picked up as part of the Council's Asset Management Strategy.

In response to a question from the Panel regarding local businesses and whether information was being fed back to influence our strategies and priorities, Andy Simcox agreed to further explore this and report back to the Panel at a later date.

RESOLVED -

- (1) The Panel noted the overview of the Council's Corporate Performance at the end of Quarter 1 2019/20 and thanked Andy Simcox and Nick McMillan for their contributions.
- (2) That information on the Council's future ambition on sickness absence, benchmarking with other West Yorkshire Local Authorities and good news stories be explored for future inclusion in performance reports.
- (3) That Transformation within the organisation which has had an impact on the reduction in agency spend be explained in future reports.
- (4) That information on improvements on the Local Wealth Creation, the Council's future ambition and benchmarking with other West Yorkshire Local Authorities be explored for inclusion in future reports.
- (5) That the Panel be consulted on the early development and testing of dashboards for self-service access to data.
- (6) That Officers explore whether mental health was effectively represented in the performance data and whether it was having an impact in terms of staff absences.
- (7) That officers explore whether consultation and engagement with local businesses on performance data was a possibility and whether this could then influence the Council's Strategies and priorities.
- (8) That the Panel consider a report to a future meeting on the Volunteering offer, including details of the prospectus and volunteering opportunities and how this could be further promoted by the Council.

7 Work Programme 2019/20

The Panel reviewed its Work Programme for 2019/20 and agreed items for inclusion.

The Panel agreed to consider a report to the November meeting outlining contingency plans for Kirklees residents who would no longer be able to vote at an election without photograph ID, as announced recently in the Queen's Speech.

The Panel agreed to consider an update report to the November meeting on the preparation and impact of leaving the European Union and the implications for Kirklees.

RESOLVED -

- (1) That the 2019/20 Agenda Plan for the Corporate Scrutiny Panel be noted and updated as agreed.

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- (2) That the Electoral Services Manager be invited to a future meeting of the Panel to report on the contingency plans for Kirklees residents who will no longer be able to vote at an election without photograph ID, as announced recently in the recent Queen's Speech.
- (3) That the Panel consider a report in November 2019 giving an update on the preparation and impact of leaving the European Union and the implications for Kirklees.
- (4) That the Governance Officer be authorised to liaise with officers on agreed actions.