
Overview & Scrutiny Panel (Environmental Well-Being)

Report of the meeting held on 9th September 2014

Matters for Information

15. GREEN HOUSE PROJECT – SALE OF HOUSES

The Panel has supported the sale of the Green Houses that the Council bought to demonstrate home energy saving measures and to provide a mechanism to deliver the Green Deal initiative. Having received frequent visits in the past, there is now less demand for the educational service they provide.

Members have questioned whether consideration has been given to retaining the Green Houses as part of the Council's forthcoming strategy to invest in capital assets in order to achieve a return. They have been informed that the rates of return on market housing are not comparable with those that can be obtained from commercial property. Any capital receipts will be reinvested in the latter. On this basis and having been informed of the likely total cost to the Council of the properties, the Panel has accepted that the original objective has been fulfilled and that they are no longer needed.

16. CORPORATE PLAN 2014-16: PERFORMANCE MONITORING

The Panel has reviewed the format of information contained in the new report on the Council's performance against its priority objectives. Members have endorsed the presentation of performance information and has commented that it is easy to understand and can be readily traced back to the Corporate Plan. They have recommended that future reports should include comments where targets have not been achieved on what is to be done to make improvements, whether the level of performance is to be accepted and what are the implications of not achieving the target.

Other Matters of Interest

17. OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY PANEL (ENVIRONMENTAL WELL-BEING) - PROGRESS

The Panel has reviewed its programme of studies. In doing so, Members have discussed their programme of site visits, which will assist with their work.

The impact of Facing the Future on the Council's licensing function has been added to the programme of studies. Subject to clarifying the precise focus of the matters that might need to be investigated, the Social Well-Being Panel could be involved in this work.

18. WORK PLAN STUDIES

The Panel has received details of the studies being undertaken by the other Overview and Scrutiny Panels.

19. NOTICE OF KEY EXECUTIVE DECISIONS

The Panel has been acquainted with the content of the Notice of Key Executive Decisions and has confirmed the matters on which it wishes to be consulted before they are submitted to the Cabinet for determination.

20. SCRUTINY

The Panel has considered the latest edition of the Decision Digest and discussed matters contained therein.

G J Bull
Chairman