

## Decision Digest

Edition 158

**Monthly summary of the decisions taken at meetings of the Council, Cabinet, Overview & Scrutiny and other Panels for the period 1st to 25th September 2015.**

### **APPROVAL FOR PUBLICATION OF THE 2014/15 ANNUAL GOVERNANCE STATEMENT AND THE ANNUAL FINANCIAL REPORT**

The Corporate Governance Panel has been apprised of the process required to be undertaken prior to the publication of the 2013/14 final accounts. This includes receiving both the External Auditor's report on the audit of the accounts and their Letter of Representation, the production of the Annual Governance Statement (AGS) and the draft Annual Financial Report (AFR) for the year ended 31st March 2015.

As a consequence of the Corporate Governance Panel meeting being held a week earlier than in previous years, the final validation checks by the External Auditors of both the AGS and the AFR were incomplete by the date of the meeting. Consequently the Panel has agreed:

- i. in principal to both the AGS and the AFR, as well as the Letter of Representation; and
- ii. that following confirmation by the External Auditor that both documents are unqualified, delegate authority to the:
  - Executive Leader and the Managing Director to sign the AGS;
  - Head of Resources to sign the Letter of Representation; and

- Corporate Governance Panel Chairman to sign the AFR.

### **CHANGE IN EXTERNAL AUDITOR AND AUDIT FEES 2015/16**

The Panel has received and noted a report in respect of the change to the External Auditor and the audit fees for 2015/16.

As a consequence of the:

- abolition of the Audit Commission's public audit responsibility;
- re-tendering of the Audit Commission 'private sector provider' external audit contracts on the 31st March 2015; and
- transfer of responsibility for the appointment of external auditors to each local authority from 2017,

the Audit Commission has appointed Ernst & Young as the Council's External Auditor for the two financial years 2015/16 and 2016/17.

As a consequence of the new local authority audit regulations, all local authorities will be permitted to appoint their own Auditor from 2017/18 onwards. Until this time, as PricewaterhouseCoopers did not bid for the contract, the Council's appointed auditors for the two intervening years will be Ernst & Young.

## IMPLEMENTATION OF AUDIT ACTIONS

Performance information regarding the implementation of agreed internal audit actions for the year ending 31st August 2015 has been presented to the Panel.

The Corporate Management Team has set a target that 100% of agreed internal audit actions should be introduced on time. There were 78 actions due to be introduced in the year ending 31st August 2015. 77% (60 in number) of agreed audit actions were introduced on time. A further 17% (13 in number) of the agreed audit actions have been introduced and 6% (5 in number) remained outstanding.

The five actions not introduced were considered previously by the Panel at its meeting in June 2015 and via a recommendation from Council at their meeting in July 2015, were referred for consideration to the Cabinet at its meeting on 17th September 2015.

The Overview and Scrutiny Panel (Economic Well-Being) has endorsed a report on the implementation of outstanding audit actions prior to its consideration by Cabinet but has questioned the need for Overview and Scrutiny to consider this matter in the future.

The Cabinet has considered the recommendation from Council regarding the Internal Audit Actions outstanding as at the 30th April 2015.

The Corporate Governance Panel at its meeting in June 2015 expressed concern at the outstanding audit actions and wanted these issues to be highlighted to the Cabinet for appropriate action to address their concerns.

Of the 13 recommendations that were not implemented when reported to the Corporate Governance Panel:

- 4 recommendations are now fully implemented;
- 4 recommendations are partially implemented; and
- 5 recommendations are not implemented.

By the end of October 2015 all recommendations, with the exception of one, are scheduled to be fully implemented.

The Cabinet has requested that the relevant Executive Councillors ensure that recommendations are implemented where appropriate in line with the revised deadlines and report to the Cabinet if the revised deadlines are not achieved.

## REVIEW OF THE EFFECTIVENESS OF THE CORPORATE GOVERNANCE PANEL

The Corporate Governance Panel has been acquainted with the outcome of the Annual Review on the effectiveness of the Panel undertaken by the Internal Audit and Risk Manager. The review has concluded that the Panel is acting effectively and fulfilling its Terms of Reference.

Due to five of the eight Panel Members being newly appointed in May 2015, it was agreed that the Internal Audit and Risk Manager should conduct the review and share the findings with the Chairman and Vice-Chairman.

A number of opportunities to further improve the effectiveness of the Panel were identified within the review and have been endorsed by the Panel with the exception that the Council become a signatory to the Prompt Payment Code (PPC) as the voluntary PPC has been superseded by two pieces of legislation that requires all valid and correct invoices to be paid within 30 days of receipt, and that the Council's

Terms and Conditions requires its prime contractors to pay all subcontractors to the contract within 30 days for each valid invoice.

### ANNUAL REPORT OF THE PANEL

The Corporate Governance Panel has been presented with the draft Annual Report of the Panel in respect of the year ending 30th September 2015, which provides a summary of its work regarding the Council's internal control and governance environment. The Panel have delegated authority to the Chairman to approve any amendments required to the Annual Report prior to it being presented to the Council meeting on 30th September 2015.

### CONSULTATION PAPER: DELIVERING GOOD GOVERNANCE IN LOCAL GOVERNMENT: A FRAMEWORK

A consultation paper has been issued by The Chartered Institute of Public Finance and Accountancy (CIPFA) and Society of Local Authority Chief Executives and Senior Managers (SOLACE) on planned revisions to the Delivering Good Governance in Local Government: Framework. The Framework underpins the Council's own local Code of Corporate Governance and any changes to the Framework will be required to be reflected in the local Code.

There is no timetable for the publication of the final document. However, the consultation suggests that the Framework will be published during the current financial year, and therefore the Council's Code of Corporate Governance will require amendments as appropriate and the 2015/2016 Annual Governance Statement will need to take account of the updated Code.

The Panel has considered the Council's proposed response to the consultation and has delegated to the Chairman of

the Panel to finalise the Council's response in consultation with the Internal Audit and Risk Manager.

### ONE LEISURE UPDATE

A six month update report on One Leisure has been presented to the Overview and Scrutiny Panel (Social Well-Being). It has been explained that the One Leisure Group is currently undergoing a transformation, which includes changes to management. A large part of this change comes from devolving responsibility to the local centres (e.g. marketing) with an overarching Strategy. This places the power for change with those best-placed to make those changes.

The relationship between membership prices and income has been discussed by the Panel, who have been advised that modelling and forensic work is informing the review of membership options. It has been confirmed that marketing will include local villages. The Panel has commended the work completed so far and recommended the report to Cabinet.

The Cabinet received a further update report regarding the performance of One Leisure, having been requested by the Cabinet at its meeting in March.

The progress made to date included that One Leisure was in profit for the final quarter of last year and once the expenses and income have been correctly profiled, remains in monthly profit to date; 2014/15 admissions have showed an increase in attendance of 9% against the previous year; the Phase I management restructure has been implemented and Phase II is currently in progress; new membership packages have been introduced and the opening times of One Leisure Sawtry have been rationalised.

## CORPORATE PLAN & FINANCE – INTEGRATED PERFORMANCE REPORT

The Overview and Scrutiny Panels for Social Well-Being, Economic Well-Being and Environmental Well-Being have each received an update on progress against the Key Activities and Corporate Indicators listed in the Council's Corporate Plan for 2015/16 for the period 1 April to 30 June 2015. The report now also incorporates progress reporting for current projects being undertaken.

The Social Well-Being Panel has queried the targets that have been set for Disabled Facilities Grants. The Panel has been informed that information on this will be provided to them.

The Environmental Well-Being Panel's discussions have centred on the planning application performance indicators. The Head of Development has informed Members that staffing issues have had an impact on the Team's ability to meet targets. Vacancies have now been filled, with a permanent Planning Services Manager (Development Management) recently recruited, and new processes have been put in place to improve performance and resilience. These measures are expected to rapidly improve over coming months.

The Cabinet has considered and commented on progress against the Key Activities and Corporate Indicators listed in the Council's Corporate Plan for 2015/16 for the period 1st April to 30th June 2015 and progress on the current projects being undertaken at the Council.

The Cabinet has also considered and commented on the Council's financial performance on revenue and capital spend as at the end of June 2015.

## CIVIL PARKING ENFORCEMENT

The Overview and Scrutiny Panel (Environmental Well-Being) has been acquainted with details of the outcome of a review into Civil Parking Enforcement in the district. The Executive Councillor for Commercial Activities has highlighted details of the parking enforcement issue and makes the case for a more lenient view in the interests of economic development; a stricter regime could be seen to penalise local business owners.

The Panel has been informed that in practical terms the costs of Civil Parking Enforcement (CPE) far outweigh any benefits; therefore it has been suggested that the Council does not commit to becoming the agent for CPE in Huntingdonshire.

Members have suggested that a further report be presented to the Panel with additional information from the Police regarding parking so that the issue can be considered with further clarity.

The Panel has endorsed the recommendations prior to their consideration by the Cabinet.

The Cabinet has been provided with the outcome of the review into the desirability of the Council supporting the County Council to adopt Civil Parking Enforcement (CPE) powers.

The Cabinet has endorsed the outcome of the review and has agreed that the Council should not commit to being the County Council's agent for CPE in Huntingdonshire on the basis that the case for such powers has not yet been made and such powers are not financially viable.

The Cabinet has agreed that the Parking Service should engage with the County Council about the development of a comprehensive traffic management

strategy for Huntingdonshire that includes funding by the County for the infrastructure costs if the strategy proposes a Civil Enforcement Area (CEA) for the District.

Although the creation of a CEA in Huntingdonshire is operationally desirable it is not financially viable. In order for the Council and County Council to adopt the powers required for CPE there are initial set-up costs with an on-going net operating cost per annum, increasing year on year with inflation.

The Cabinet have fully supported further engagement with the County Council to investigate whether there is a desire to develop a more holistic traffic management strategy for Huntingdonshire.

### **COMMERCIAL INVESTMENT STRATEGY**

The Overview and Scrutiny Panel (Economic Well-Being) has noted a report on the Commercial Investment Strategy (CIS) for the Council. The report has set out the high level strategic approach taken in terms of investments, the approach to risk and a balance in the Council's portfolio. The Panel has been informed that the information will be broken down further and that a Business Plan will follow on from this report.

It has been explained to the Panel that the investments the Council have at the moment are both high touch and high risk; diversification will reduce the risk and in the process will allow the Council to find other ways of delivering services rather than cutting them.

In terms of locality in future investments, the Panel has heard that the location of potential property investments is not restricted to Huntingdonshire. Diversification of investments is important and allows the Council to expand the commercial portfolio. The

Council consider this to be investing in the UK economy and there will be no overseas element.

Subject to Cabinet agreeing that a quarterly report on CIS performance be submitted to Overview and Scrutiny, the Panel has endorsed the recommendations for Cabinet to approve the Commercial Investment Strategy and the "enhanced as is" model of governance arrangements set out in the report.

The Cabinet has approved the Commercial Investment Strategy (CIS) and the 'as is' model of governance arrangements.

In order to achieve the Council's ambition to reduce reliance on Central Government funding, a funding gap of £8.2m must be addressed by 2019/20. Income generation is one business activity that will assist to address the funding gap.

The Council's current commercial estate generates a net return of £1.5m (7.2% of the £20.8m value of the estate) and the Council has established a 'Capital Investment Earmarked Reserve' to provide a source of funding for further investment in assets generating a revenue cash flow. The CIS establishes the parameters and governance arrangements for managing this investment.

A Business Plan is currently being drafted to be presented to the Cabinet for approval. The Business Plan will establish the parameters for the Loan to Value of each type of investment to ensure that additional borrowing is affordable and that there is adequate security over direct capital investment in assets.

The 'as is' position model of governance will make use of existing resources and will ensure Members are



involved in relevant decisions through the Treasury and Capital Management Group. The governance structure will ensure regular reporting to Members.

### **ZERO BASED BUDGETING UPDATE: PREPARATION FOR THE 2016/17 BUDGET AND MEDIUM TERM FINANCIAL STRATEGY**

The Overview and Scrutiny Panel (Economic Well-Being) has received and endorsed an update on the Zero Based Budgeting (ZBB) process in preparation for the 2016/17 Budget and Medium Term Financial Strategy. The Executive Councillor for Resources has briefly provided a background to explain the basics of ZBB to the Panel, informing Members that the process has been broken down into three different strands (Tranches). By the conclusion of Tranche 3 in November 2015, all services will have been subject to the detailed ZBB process.

The Head of Resources has referred the Panel to the lists the service changes proposed by the 'Star Chamber'. The 'Star Chamber' involved the Executive Leader, Deputy Executive Leader and the Executive Portfolio Holder for Resources (Chairman), who considered various options for changes to services. The Panel has been advised of a range of innovative projects such as:

- ◆ Relocation of the Call Centre;
- ◆ 'One Stop Shop multi-agency customer service' hub; and
- ◆ Procurement of IT systems.

The Panel has been informed that Officers have endeavoured to create progressive plans to deliver savings. There is more work to do to identify savings but the Council is moving in the right direction.

Panel members have queried the reductions in repairs and maintenance and have been advised that these

charges will now be payable by tenants as additional charges in their current terms and conditions. This means additional income rather than a reduction in expenditure.

The Panel have been informed that consultancy costs in Planning Services would be reduced through a wider range of expertise as a result of sharing services.

The Cabinet has been provided with an update on the Zero Based Budgeting (ZBB) process in preparation for the 2016/17 Budget and Medium Term Financial Strategy (MTFS).

As part of the budget setting cycle for 2016/17, the Council is continuing the ZBB exercise that started during the last financial year in preparation for the 2015/16 budget. The ZBB process is split into a number of Tranches, with Tranche 1 having been undertaken during the Autumn of 2014 (in which £1.8m was removed from the Council's 2015/16 budget) and Tranches 2 and 3 are being undertaken during 2015/16.

In preparation for 2016/17 budget setting, Tranche 2 commenced in April 2015 and concluded with a Cabinet led Star Chamber in mid-July 2015. Tranche 3 commenced in August and the associated Star Chamber is scheduled for November 2015

The confirmed 2019/20 savings accumulated from Tranche 2 of the ZBB process that can be included in the budget savings for 2016/17 are £1.372m.

### **LANGLEY COURT – LOAN TO LUMINUS**

The Overview and Scrutiny Panel (Economic Well-Being) has received a report on the redevelopment of Langley Court, St Ives, introduced by the Executive Councillor for Resources. The report has proposed the transfer of

a piece of land to Luminus to enable the redevelopment of Langley Court to proceed and has updated Members on the terms of a loan to Luminus.

The Executive Leader has explained that a housing needs assessment has been the driver in this project, as there is a clear need in the area for additional care facilities. It has been explained that as adult social care becomes a wider issue, the Council need to work with strategic partners to deliver solutions. The fundamental need is the driver behind the loan, rather than commercial interest or requirement.

The Chairman has commented that the decision to complete this plan has been long awaited and the Panel has endorsed the recommendations prior to its consideration by the Cabinet.

The Cabinet has agreed:

1. to the transfer of the grassed area at the front of Langley Court to Luminus, subject to a clawback arrangement;
2. to the continued support of the Langley Court development by the provision of loan finance at nil cost to the Council; and
3. that the Head of Resources, as the Section 151 Officer, be authorised to make the loan following consultation with the Executive Councillor for Resources (and a satisfactory Due Diligence report from the Council's Treasury Management Advisors).

The need for extra care for older people in St Ives is a priority in the Council's Housing Strategy 2012-15. Luminus had an outdated sheltered scheme in Langley Close, Ramsey Road, St Ives and planned to demolish the scheme and redevelop a new extra care scheme in its place consisting of 55 one and two bedroom flats.

There is a grassed area to the front of the site, bordering the car park which is owned by the Council. To make best use of the site, Luminus would like to use this space to form part of the car park and green space for the scheme. To enable this to happen, this Council would need to transfer ownership of the green space to Luminus. Any potential transfer will be subject to a clawback arrangement so that if the site is ever sold in the future, the monetary equivalent of the land value reverts to the Council. The grassed area does not have any standalone development potential, given its proximity to the street and the surrounding buildings, and therefore transferring it to Luminus would be in line with the Council's forthcoming Asset Strategy.

At the time of drafting the report the specific loan details are yet to be finalised. However, the loan will not have a negative financial impact on the Council as Luminus will be repaying the loan in full including a margin of 1.5% over the 30 year term of the loan. The net loan finance to be arranged by the Council in respect of the development itself is £5m. It is anticipated that Luminus will draw down their loan at various stages of the development process, consequently the Council will draw down the loan from the Public Works Loan Board in similar tranches.

Financial security during the development phase will be Brook House, which is owned by Luminus Finance Limited. As the development comes to practical completion the intention will be to transfer this to the Langley Court development itself.

### DEVELOPMENT APPLICATIONS

The Development Management Panel has considered 12 applications for planning permission. Of these, nine have been approved and two refused with one deferred to enable further

discussion to take place with the applicant. One of the decisions to approve an application was contrary to the Officer recommendation.

Some of the more significant applications to have been approved include:

- residential development of up to 74 dwellings including access at land south of Farriers Way and Bencroft Lane, Warboys;
- 13 x 2/3 bedroom affordable housing on the site formerly occupied by Ashton House, Broadway, Yaxley; and
- the erection of twelve dwellings on an exception site to the south of The Rhees and between Greenacres and Bramley Lodge Bluntisham Road, Colne.

#### **DEVELOPMENT MANAGEMENT – SECTION 106 AGREEMENT**

The Development Management Panel has approved terms of a Section 106 Agreement relating to a hybrid application for land at the former Golf Course, Houghton Road, St Ives. The application previously has been refused by the Panel and is the subject of an appeal to the Planning Inspectorate. The Panel has authorised Officers to continue to negotiate with the applicant on the terms of the Section 106 Agreement to be submitted to the Planning Inspectorate as part of the appeal proceedings.

#### **UPDATE ON CODE OF CONDUCT AND REGISTER OF DISCLOSABLE PECUNIARY INTERESTS**

The Monitoring Officer has updated the Standards Committee on the adoption of a Code of Conduct by Town and Parish Councils and the receipt and publication of Disclosable Pecuniary Interests (DPI)

forms on behalf of District and Town and Parish Councillors.

All Town and Parish Councils have adopted a Code of Conduct in one form or another. Of the 71 Town and Parish Councils, 60 have had their full Register published. Clerks from the remaining 11 Parish Councils have been reminded to send in outstanding DPI forms as soon as possible.

586 of a total of 650 individual DPIs have been received from Parish Councillors, 26 are outstanding and 38 are vacancies. The forms of all District Councillors are published.

The Committee has considered how to ensure the outstanding DPIs are received. The Monitoring Officer has no enforcement powers but, owing to the legal nature of the duty to publish DPIs, it is felt that primary responsibility should remain with the Monitoring Officer, with support from relevant Ward Members.

#### **COMPLAINTS**

The Standards Committee has been informed of complaints submitted to the Local Government Ombudsman (LGO) in 2013/14 and 2014/15. In 2013/14, of the 15 complaints that were the subject of investigations, three were upheld. Brief explanations of the three cases have been received. No complaints were upheld in 2014/15.

With regard to internal complaints handling, the Committee has been acquainted with trends over the last six years. There has been a reduction in the number of complaints investigated in the period but the significant decline in complaints in the last year suggests there has been under-reporting. For this reason and because a review is now due, a revised policy and internal guidance will be submitted to the Committee for approval in the autumn.



### ELECTORAL BOUNDARY REVIEW

The Standards Committee has been acquainted with the Local Government Boundary Commission for England's (LGBCE) process for the electoral review of Huntingdonshire. The first phase of the review is for the Council to produce a submission to the LGBCE, which provides a rationale, backed up with evidence, for a proposed Council size. A working group comprising representatives from political groups has been convened to make a recommendation on the number of councillors the Council needs for this purpose.

The Committee has reviewed the detailed submission, which has been prepared to support the retention of 52 Members. Subject to strengthening the Council's case through the inclusion of sources for the figures provided, the Committee has recommended the Council to approve the submission on Council size.

The Committee will continue to be involved in the remaining stages of the review.

### WORKFORCE INFORMATION REPORT (QUARTER 1)

The Employment Panel has received report on Human Resource matters during the period 1st April to 30th June 2015. The report includes the latest position and trends relating to:-

- ◆ employee numbers;
- ◆ salary costs; and
- ◆ sickness absence reporting.

Members have been informed that the number of Full Time Equivalent (FTE) posts within the organisation has increased slightly and this has led to an increase of approximately £4k in the monthly salary cost. They also have

noted the reasons why employees have left the Council.

The annual number of days lost to sickness per FTE has decreased and, compared to the last quarter, the total number of sickness days has reduced by 87 days. Members have been acquainted with the reasons for sickness absence. The reported trends continue to be affected by the reduction in the size of the workforce.

Five individuals recently have retired from the Council's service. These employees had a combined length of service of 129 years. The Panel has placed on record its recognition of, and gratitude for, the excellent contributions they have made during their employment in the local government service and conveyed its best wishes to them for long and happy retirements.

### LGSS QUARTERLY PERFORMANCE AND MONITORING REPORT

The Employment Panel has considered the performance of LGSS Human Resources, Payroll and Organisational Workforce Development services across the key service measures agreed under the current contract during the period 1st April to 30th June 2015. LGSS performance is measured in four areas, namely:

- ◆ General Service Standards;
- ◆ HR Strategic and Advisory;
- ◆ Recruitment and Payroll; and
- ◆ Organisational workforce development.

### DRUG AND ALCOHOL POLICY

The Employment Panel has reviewed and endorsed a Drug and Alcohol Policy.

**JOB EVALUATION POLICY**

The Employment Panel has been acquainted with changes to the processes and the membership of panels undertaking Job Evaluation. The Job Evaluation Questionnaire has been amended to make it more constructive and the outcomes more accurate. The guidance also has been made clearer.

With regard to the membership of Job Evaluation Panels, an additional 12 Officers have been trained in Job Evaluation, thereby extending the pool of available Officers. As a result, the rules on the composition of Panels have been amended so that they now comprise two senior officers with one from Senior Management Team and one Staff Council representative. This is considered to be more flexible.

Having been reminded of the arrangements for Moderation, the Panel has supported the changes made to enhance the Council's ability to undertake job evaluations in their preparation, Evaluation and Moderation on the grounds that they will lead to the production of better Job Evaluation Questionnaires.

**EMPLOYEE OPINION SURVEY 2015**

The Employment Panel has been acquainted with the outcome of the Employee Opinion Survey 2015.

**NHS CAMBRIDGESHIRE AND  
PETERBOROUGH CLINICAL  
COMMISSIONING GROUP –  
PERFORMANCE REPORT**

The Overview and Scrutiny Panel (Social Well-Being) has received a report on performance of the Cambridgeshire and Peterborough Clinical Commissioning Group. Mr I Weller and Mr J Kerrin presented the performance data to the Panel.

The Panel has been informed that:

- ◆ A&E performance targets are national; these were not reached for April/May 2015 but were on target for June;
- ◆ the Breast Pathway service was overloaded in June 2015 so extra plans to deal with capacity are now in place and July saw exceptional performance in this area;
- ◆ the waiting times from diagnosis to treatment are being looked at regionally. Responses can be up to six weeks and there is now an action plan for the Trust and the company who provides results to look at this; and
- ◆ same sex accommodation and finding the capacity within the Intensive Care Unit at Hinchingsbrooke Hospital was difficult. Plans have been put in place to reduce the risk of this happening again.

The Panel has been informed that the current 62 day wait for cancer patients to receive results is being monitored and has improved. The CCG understand that timely treatments are essential, and are looking at these times being improved by October 2015 rather than 2016 which is the current national target.

With regards to the Care Quality Commission (CQC) Report from 2014, The Panel has been assured that the CCG are confident that the follow-up report (which was completed in January) has given the Trust the footing for real improvement which will be developed further in time for the upcoming CQC visit. It is expected that the outcomes from this visit (21 October 2015) will be positive.

It has been confirmed to Members that there are several schemes that will be implemented to deal with capacity

issues during the winter months; performance over this time is expected to drop but it will be monitored daily. In order to increase capacity, the CCG is also working with nursing homes to achieve greater resources for care that does not require hospital treatment. Morning discharges are also being recommended to assist further with the amount of beds that are available as they provide a steady flow of discharges throughout the day rather than all at once in the evening.

The Panel has been informed that the issues with e-referral are technical and were due to the system not being prepared sufficiently for the new data. The CCG are entirely dependent on the external systems to collate information which in itself creates further delay. The indications are that e-referral should be on track for November 2015, but as it's a national system, December may be a more realistic target.

The Chairman of the Panel has requested performance data on the CCG itself, including internal metric data and GP waiting times; it has been confirmed by Mr Weller that this will be possible and the CCG will aim to share this with the Panel in 6 months' time.

### **OPERATIONS REVIEW QUARTERLY UPDATE**

An update on the Operations Review has been presented to the Overview and Scrutiny Panel (Environmental Well-Being) by the Interim Head of Operations and the Executive Councillor for Operations and Environment. The report has provided an opportunity for Members to scrutinise the St.Ives green spaces and play needs analysis and the new Garden Waste Contamination Policy prior to their adoption by the Council.

The Panel has discussed issues regarding graffiti removal and problems surrounding bin collections. The Panel

has been informed that particular area problems with graffiti are monitored by the Police and that the Council are working with the Police to identify repeat offenders. A Panel Member has suggested that reporting of incidents at particular geographical areas would assist in these investigations; the Interim Head of Operations has informed the Members that there is a new Members Contact Form which will help to gain some control over the issue with this kind of feedback from Members providing trackable progress.

The Council are working to specifically target the requirements of local areas and projects that will help that need. Information has also been presented on the current green spaces provision, and any gaps in that provision.

When considering the information on play provision in the area, the Panel has been informed that the needs analysis has indicated that there is a good level of provision and that these sites need to be maintained and expanded to other areas. A targeted investment approach is favoured, which will allow for affordable future proofing of these sites.

The Panel has discussed the Council's Garden Waste Policy which has been amended to include a more customer focused approach, which includes answers to residents regarding why their bin may have not been collected. This will take the form of digital photography evidence, reasoning and education for those residents who may be repeat offenders.



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