

**EXECUTIVE OVERVIEW & SCRUTINY
COMMITTEE**

HELD: Thursday, 15 June 2023

Start: 7.00 pm

Finish: 7.50 pm

PRESENT:

Councillor: J Fillis (Chairman)

Councillors: T Devine (Vice-Chair) P Burnside
I Eccles N Hennessy
M Parlour E Pope
D Whittington

In attendance: Councillor G Dowling - Deputy Leader and Portfolio Holder for
Planning & Community Safety

Officers: Chris Twomey, Corporate Director of Transformation, Housing and
Resources
Paul Charlson, Head of Planning & Regulatory Services
Alison Grimes, Performance Improvement Lead
Tom Dickinson, Principal Solicitor
Catherine Kirwan, Procurement Manager
Steven Faulkner, Planning Services Manager
Elizabeth Morgan, Digital Communications Manager
Julia Brown, Democratic Services Officer

1 APOLOGIES

There were no apologies for absence received.

2 MEMBERSHIP OF THE COMMITTEE

In accordance with Council Procedure Rule 4, the Committee noted the termination of Councillors R Bailey and D Westley and the appointment of Councillors T De Freitas and D Whittington for this meeting only, thereby giving effect to the wishes of the Political Groups

3 URGENT BUSINESS, IF ANY, INTRODUCED BY THE CHAIRMAN

There were no urgent items of business.

4 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

There were no declarations of interest.

5 DECLARATIONS OF PARTY WHIP

There were no declarations of Party Whip.

6 MINUTES

RESOLVED: That the Minutes of the meeting held 23 February 2023 be received as a correct record and signed by the Chairman.

7 PUBLIC SPEAKING

There were no items under this heading.

8 RELEVANT MINUTES OF CABINET

Consideration was given to the Minutes of Cabinet held on 7 March 2023 as contained on pages 15 to 22 of the Book of Reports.

RESOLVED: That the Minutes of Cabinet held 7 March 2023 be noted.

9 PLANNING SERVICES REVIEW

Consideration was given to the report of the Corporate Director of Transformation, Housing and Resources as contained on pages 23 to 34 of the Book of Reports, which was to update Members on progress with implementing the recommendations of the Planning Services review.

The Head of Planning and Regulatory Services and Planning Services Manager responded to comments and questions raised by Members.

- Recruitment of Planning Officers / Enforcement Officers
- Provision of the 'weekly list' is preferential to be in the new Ward format rather than numerical for Members
- Communication issues with switchboard to be transferred to Planning Officer/Services
- Monitoring of the Planning Services Review through Cabinet and Members Update

The Chairman thanked Officers for their work and to the Deputy Leader and Portfolio Holder for Planning & Community Safety for his attendance.

RESOLVED:

- A. That the update on progress of the Planning Services review be noted.
- B. That future progress reports be reported via the Corporate & Environmental Overview and Scrutiny Committee Members Update and Cabinet.
- C. That consideration be given to assist and provide Members with a Planning Weekly List in Ward order.

(Note: Councillor G Dowling - Deputy Leader and Portfolio Holder for Planning & Community Safety was in attendance for this item)

10 PROCUREMENT POLICY

Consideration was given to the report of the Head of Finance, Procurement and Commercial Property as contained on pages 35 to 54 of the Book of Reports which set out details of the proposed Procurement Policy.

The Procurement Manager outlined the report and responded to comments and questions raised by Members:

- Inclusion of question - requirements under Modern Slavery Act 2015
- Monitoring of budget setting process, financial and resource implications
- Savings tracker / Value for Money process

RESOLVED: That the Committee considered the Procurement Policy and recommend to Council that the Procurement Policy be noted and approved.

11 RESULTS OF CITIZEN SURVEY 2022

Consideration was given to the report of the Corporate Director of Transformation, Housing and Resources as contained on pages 55 to 68 of the Book of Reports, the purpose of which, was to share the action plan developed through the cross organisational officer Task & Finish Group, following the analysis of the Citizen Survey 2022.

The Digital Communications Manager outlined the report and responded to comments and questions raised by Members.

- Any follow on from Covid included 2021/22 period / thanks to Council Staff and Volunteers
- Residents not signed up to garden waste subscription / subscription patterns
- What methods of inclusion for residents not able to sign up for garden waste subscription online
- Did the Council commit to 'no mow May'?
- Road signage blockage / LCC responsibility

The Digital Communications Manager informed that she would contact the relevant Service area, in response to the above questions.

The Chairman thanked officers for their excellent work.

RESOLVED: That the report be noted.

12 COUNCIL PERFORMANCE DELIVERY PLAN – Q4 2022/23

Consideration was given to the report of the Corporate Director of Transformation, Housing and Resources as contained on pages 69 to 92 of the Book of Reports, which presented performance monitoring data for the quarter ended 31 March 2023.

The Chairman commented on the excellent presentation of the report.

RESOLVED: That the Council's performance against the Council Plan for the quarter ended 31 March 2023 be noted.

13 COUNCIL PLAN 2023-2028 DEVELOPMENT

Consideration was given to the report of the Corporate Director of Transformation, Housing and Resources as contained on pages 93 to 108 of the Book of Reports, which was to approve the draft of the new Council Plan 2023-28 for public consultation.

A comment was raised in respect of benefits of the new 'Tree Management Strategy' for West Lancashire.

RESOLVED:

- A. That the Committee note the process for developing a replacement Council Plan to date.
- B. That the Committee note the draft Council Plan 2023-2028 priorities and areas of focus to be used in public consultation at Appendix 1.
- C. That the process for approving a final plan outlined in section 4.1 is endorsed.
- D. That the 'Tree Management Strategy' for West Lancashire be presented to a future meeting of the Committee within appropriate time scale.

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Chairman