

**SCRUTINY MANAGEMENT BOARD
25TH JANUARY 2017**

PRESENT: The Chair (Councillor Miah)
The Vice-chair (Councillor Shepherd)
Councillors Bebbington, Bokor, Jukes, Seaton,
Sharp and Smidowicz

Chief Executive
Head of Cleansing and Open Spaces
Democratic Services Officer (LS)

Councillor Fryer, Cabinet Lead Member for Open Spaces and Leisure Services also attended this meeting in respect of item 6 on the agenda (Leicestershire County Council Grass Cutting and Verge Maintenance).

25. MINUTES

The minutes of the meeting held on 26th October 2016 were confirmed as a correct record and signed.

26. DISCLOSURES OF PECUNIARY AND PERSONAL INTEREST

Councillors Miah, Shepherd and Sharp declared interests as Leicestershire County Councillors in respect of item 6 on the agenda (Leicestershire County Council Grass Cutting and Verge Maintenance).

27. DECLARATIONS – THE PARTY WHIP

No declarations were made.

28. QUESTIONS UNDER OTHER COMMITTEE PROCEDURES 11.17

No questions had been submitted.

29. LEICESTERSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL GRASS CUTTING AND VERGE MAINTENANCE

Considered a report of the Head of Cleansing and Open Spaces providing a further update on the implementation of the revised Leicestershire County Council grass cutting arrangements, following the Board's previous consideration of this matter at its meeting on 17th August 2016 (item 6 on the agenda filed with these minutes).

The Chief Executive and Head of Cleansing and Open Spaces assisted with consideration of the report.

RESOLVED

1. that the report be noted;
2. that it be noted that no further updates on the matter are required by the Board.

Reasons

1. To acknowledge the information received.
2. The Board considered that matters had improved considerably in 2016. Members present had received significantly less complaints regarding grass cutting and verge maintenance in 2016 as compared to 2015, following a move back to 6 cuts per annum rather than 5, and with more of those cuts being programmed at the beginning of the growing season. Unless that practice changed, it should not be necessary for the Board to monitor the matter.

30. BUDGET SCRUTINY PANEL

Considered a report of Budget Scrutiny Panel setting out its findings and recommendations (item 7 on the agenda filed with these minutes).

Councillor Miah, Chair of the Panel, assisted with consideration of the report.

RESOLVED

1. that the recommendations and observations of the Budget Scrutiny Panel be endorsed and its report **be submitted to the Cabinet** for consideration;
2. that the recommendations of the Panel in respect of the process for developing and scrutinising the Council's budget in future years be considered by the Board at its meeting on 29th March 2017;
3. that notwithstanding resolution 2. above, the budget scrutiny process moving forward includes the Panel inviting the Leader and the Cabinet Lead Member for Finance and Revenues and Benefits to at least one of its formal meetings each year.

Reasons

1. The Board supported the recommendations and observations of the Budget Scrutiny Panel.
2. To enable those recommendations to be given appropriate consideration in agreeing the process for scrutiny of the budget in 2017/18.

3. To ensure that the Budget Scrutiny Panel has the opportunity to discuss and understand the political decisions behind budget proposals, with a view to its scrutiny of the matter being more effective.

31. SCRUTINY WORK PROGRAMME AND ISSUES ARISING FROM SCRUTINY GROUPS AND PANELS

Considered a report of the Head of Strategic Support to enable the Board to agree the Scrutiny Work Programme, including considering requests from other scrutiny bodies and updates on the delivery of the Work Programme, and identify Key Decisions on which scrutiny could be undertaken, also setting out the Cabinet's response to recommendations made by the Board at its last meeting (item 8 on the agenda filed with these minutes).

The Chief Executive assisted with consideration of the report.

RESOLVED

1. that the following item be added to the Board's Work Programme (to be considered as part of its Scrutiny Work Programme item):

Annual Procurement Plan and Quarterly Updates;
2. that the following item be added to the Policy Scrutiny Group's Work Programme:

Review of the Homelessness Strategy – to be scheduled;
3. that the following items be added to the Performance Scrutiny Panel's Work Programme:
 - (i) Refurbishment of Riversdale Court, Birstall – Report explaining variance between original budget and outturn position – 11th April 2017;
 - (ii) Planning Enforcement – Report setting out current planning enforcement policy and performance against that – to be scheduled;
4. that forthcoming Executive Key Decisions or decisions to be taken in private by the Executive, set out in Appendix 1 to the report, and scheduled scrutiny of those matters, be noted;
5. that the Scrutiny Work Programme, set out in Appendix 2 to the report, be noted and updated in accordance with decisions taken above and at this meeting;
6. that the Cabinet's responses to recommendations made by the Board at its last meeting on 26th October 2016 be noted.

Reasons

1. To enable the Board to consider whether scrutiny of any procurement activity should be programmed or recommendations made to Cabinet.
2. To enable scrutiny of the matter, to take place at an appropriate time during the review of the Strategy.
3. To ensure that the matters are scrutinised following reference to them at this meeting by members of the Board.
4. Timely and effective scrutiny had already been scheduled or would be scheduled for future scrutiny meetings.
5. To ensure that the information contained within the Scrutiny Work Programme is up to date.
6. The Board was satisfied with the outcome of its recommendations.

NOTES

1. No reference may be made to these minutes at Council on 27th February 2017 unless notice to that effect is given to the Democratic Services Manager by five members of the Council by noon on the fifth working day following publication of the minutes.
2. These minutes are subject to confirmation as a correct record at the next ordinary meeting of Scrutiny Management Board.