

Wednesday, 23 October 2024

CORPORATE RESOURCES & GOVERNANCE SCRUTINY & IMPROVEMENT COMMITTEE

A meeting of the Corporate Resources & Governance Scrutiny & Improvement Committee was held on Wednesday, 23 October 2024 at the Civic Centre, Ridley Street, Redcar, TS10 1TD.

PRESENT Councillor G Nightingale (Chair)
Councillors V Rider (Vice-Chair), T Gray,
N Bendelow, P Chaney, R Clark, B Clarke,
C Curr, I Hart, C Morgan, P Thomson, J McCue
and L White.

OFFICIALS A Pearson, M Lyth, P Winstanley, S Newton and
V Smith.

IN ATTENDANCE Councillor C Massey.

APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors P Salvin and
M Fairley.

91 **TO CONFIRM THE MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD ON 11
SEPTEMBER 2024 AND NOTE THE ATTENDANCE MATRIX**

RESOLVED that the minute of the Corporate Resources & Governance
Scrutiny & Improvement Committee on 11 September 2024 be confirmed
and signed by the Chair as a correct record, and the attendance matrix be
noted.

92 **DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST.**

93 **ANNUAL GOVERNANCE STATEMENT 2023-24 AND LOCAL CODE
OF GOVERNANCE**

The Governance Manager presented the Annual Governance statement
23/24 and the Local Code of Governance which was due to be considered
by Cabinet on the 29 October 2024, before being approved by the
Governance Committee on 25 November 2024.

As part of the ensuing discussion the following was noted.

- Members requested further information regarding the processes
being developed to further support the five-year planning cycle. An
Officer replied that the processes were referring to the current work

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taking place through Budget Task and Finish Group and the Transformation Program.

Resolved that the information in the report be noted

94 **OUTSIDE BODIES AND COMMUNITY ORGANISATIONS 2024/25**

The Governance Manager presented a report which confirmed appointments to outside bodies and community organisations for 2024/25 which was due to be considered by Cabinet on the 29 October 2024. The report advised that appointments to outside bodies were made annually, with many made at the Council AGM. However, due to the nature of their activities some of these appointments were made through Cabinet. This report therefore set out the appointments to be made through Cabinet

Resolved that the information in this report be noted.

95 **VOLUNTEER STRATEGY**

The Assistant Director for Corporate Services presented the new Volunteer Strategy which sets out a series of high-level objectives that would support the council in delivering its corporate plan priorities, in particular the need to maintain a strong and sustainable council. This report was due to be considered by Cabinet on 29 October 2024.

As part of the ensuing discussion the following questions and comments were made:

- How would the authority monitor the outcomes of the strategy? An Officer advised that there were a range of actions within the strategy to monitor the progress, including working with volunteer groups, enhancing volunteering opportunities in the council, supporting community groups and encouraging the uptake of volunteering.
- How would the strategy help with the recruitment of younger volunteers? An Officer advised that groups who required new members could contact the council, and the authority could help in several ways.
- Members commented that Health and Safety regulations may discourage people from taking up Volunteering. Officers advised

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that the safety of volunteers was very important and extra training was available. The Council would also ensure that correct PPE was used when required.

RESOLVED that the information in the report be noted.

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COMMERCIAL STRATEGY

The Governance Director and the Corporate Procurement Manager presented the Commercial Strategy. The strategy sets out the approach the council would take in managing its commercial and procurement activities to meet its legal and statutory duties in accordance with the Public Sector Procurement Regulations, alongside meeting Council priorities and demonstrating value for money for residents and business across the Borough. This report was due to be considered by Cabinet on 29 October 2024.

As part of the ensuing discussion the following questions and comments were made:

- Further details on the new e-procurement system. Officers advised that previously the authority used the Proactis system for procurement. This was a good system, but it was nationally focused. The new system would focus on local suppliers meeting local needs and would meet more of the authorities' requirements. The authority was currently promoting the new system to local suppliers and offering 1-1 support on getting them signed up.
- A member enquired about the size of the procurement team. Officers advised that there are 7 members of staff in the procurement team.
- How would the commercial strategy success be assessed? Officers advised that there were several key indicators in the strategy that would be used to measure performance.
- A Member commented on the Bakehouse Square development in Guisborough, that the authority paid a company for work that has been incorrectly carried out and needs to be done again. Would this new strategy prevent this? Officers responded that this was more of a contract management issue than a procurement issue and would be raised at the Growth Scrutiny & Improvement Committee.

RESOLVED that the information in the report be noted.

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97 **ASSET STRATEGY**

The Assistant Director for Environment Sustainability and Culture presented the Asset Strategy. The strategy focused on land and property assets. With the emphasis being on building maintenance, safety and encouraging efficient working practices. This report was due to be considered by Cabinet on 29 October 2024.

As part of the ensuing discussion the following questions and comments were raised.

- How does the asset strategy relate to the previous asset strategy? An Officer advised that this strategy replaced the old strategy, it was simpler and more user friendly.
- Issues relating to the asset strategy would be transparent through existing reporting processes, such as through the process of delegated decision making, etc.
- A Member asked who was on the Asset Strategy Board? An Officer advised that the Asset Strategy Board was an internal board that met every 4 weeks to review progress with the Asset Strategy.
- The Chair requested a report on the use of the Councils' assets be submitted to a future meeting.

RESOLVED:

1. That the information in the report be noted
2. That a report on all of the Councils assets be submitted to a future meeting.

98 **BUDGET TASK AND FINISH GROUP- UPDATE FROM THE
CHAIR/DIRECTOR OF FINANCE**

The Director of Finance presented an update on the work being undertaken by members as part of the recent Budget Task & Finish Panels and the all-member budget conferences.

Members were reminded that the Panels were initially arranged thematically, around four areas, but were eventually amalgamated into one group at which all four themes were considered.

RESOLVED that the information in the report be noted.

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99 **MOTION TRACKER.**

The Governance Manager referred Members to the updated motion tracker- **NOTED**

100 **WORK PROGRAMME 2023/24**

The Governance Manager presented a report which provided an update on progress of 2024/25 work programme for the Corporate Resources & Governance Scrutiny & Improvement Committee.

During the ensuing discussion a Member asked for an update on the timeframe for the revision of the “Get me Home Safely” campaign.

RESOLVED:

1. That the information in the report be noted
2. That an update on the timeframe for the revision of the “Get me Home Safely” campaign be submitted for a future meeting

101 **OUTSIDE BODIES UPDATE**

The Chair invited updates from Members who had attended meetings of Outside Bodies that were relevant to the Corporate Resources and Governance Scrutiny & Improvement Committee;

- A Member commented that it would be useful if Members who had attended meetings of Outside Bodies relevant to this Committee provide the meeting with a short briefing note.
- A Member advised of the success of the recent visit from the Town Twinning Authority, Troisdorf.
- A Member gave an update on the Tees Valley Joint Health Scrutiny Committee including:
 1. The independent review had been pushed back.
 2. An update on the integration of transport (Road and Rail).
 3. An update on the Sub-Committee of education and skills, mainly looking at breaking barriers to opportunity.

RESOLVED that the information be noted.

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102 **ACTION LIST**

At this point in the meeting the Committee agreed to exclude the Press and Public from the meeting, with reference to Item 7 on the action list.

Exclusion of Press and Public

Resolved that the press and public be excluded from the meeting on the grounds that the following item contains exempt information as defined in Paragraph 1, 2 and 3 of Part 1 of Schedule 12A of the local Government act 1972 (as amended)

Members discussed the meeting with ward Members regarding the Cat Nab Car Park Veritau Report- **NOTED**

103 **ANY ITEMS THE CHAIR CERTIFIES AS URGENT.**

No urgent items were considered.