

Overview and Scrutiny Committee

Minutes

20 April 2021

Present:

Chair: Councillor Sachin Shah

Councillors: Dan Anderson
Sarah Butterworth
Stephen Greek
Honey Jamie
Jean Lammiman
Chris Mote
Kanti Rabadia

Absent: Councillor Jeff Anderson
Mr M Chandran
Harrow Youth Parliament
Representative
Mr N Ransley
Reverend P Reece
Ms M Trivedi

149. Attendance by Reserve Members

RESOLVED: To note that there were no Reserve Members in attendance.

150. Declarations of Interest

RESOLVED: To note that

- (1) the Declarations of Interests published in advance of the meeting on the Council's website were taken as read;
- (2) Members of the Committee and Co-opted Members who had declared interests remained in the virtual meeting whilst the matters were considered and voted upon.

151. Minutes

RESOLVED: That the minutes of the meeting held on 12 January 2021 be taken as read and signed as a correct record.

152. Public Questions

RESOLVED: To note that no public questions were received.

153. Petitions

RESOLVED: To note that no petitions had been received.

154. References from Council/Cabinet

RESOLVED: To note that no references were received.

Resolved Items

155. Scrutiny Annual Report 2020-2021

The Committee received the Scrutiny annual report 2020/21.

The Chair introduced the report and noted that due to the pandemic the report could not be done in the format as the previous year, but thanked the officers for delivering a good report.

The Committee thanked the officers for the report and be proud of what was achieved given the circumstances. The Committee noted that it outlined the past year well and gave a good insight into scrutiny.

RESOLVED: That

- (1) the report be considered and agreed;
- (2) the report be submitted to Full Council for endorsement..

156. Scrutiny Work Programme 2021-2022

The Committee received the Scrutiny Work Programme 2021/22.

The Chair introduced the report and noted this was a focus of what would happen over the next year, with some key topics to come to scrutiny.

RESOLVED: That

- (1) the report be considered and approved;
- (2) the report be submitted to Full Council for endorsement.

157. Shared Services Scrutiny Review Report

Members received a report which presented the findings and recommendations from the Shared Services Scrutiny Review. The review had commenced in late 2019 but had to conclude early in March 2020, as the Covid-19 pandemic diverted resources and continued to stretch organisational capacity.

A member of the Committee presented the report and highlighted the following:

- the review had been carried out in the midst of the pandemic which had been challenging and whilst not all objectives had been met, the report highlighted some positives;
- feasibility study appraisals should support Council decisions on future shared services, with risks being able to be identified and mitigated;
- it was crucial that contracts and agreements in shared services had exit strategies included.

The Committee raised a number of points including that the opportunity to revisit this issue in the future would be welcomed.

The Chair and Committee thanked the officers and review panel for their work and agreed that this should be included on the Scrutiny Work Programme

RESOLVED: That

- (1) the Shared Services Scrutiny Review be endorsed;
- (2) the review's report and recommendations be forwarded to Cabinet for consideration and response;
- (3) in line with Rule 25.1.1 of the Council's Committee Procedure Rules, Rule 40.2 be suspended, to allow the Executive a longer timeframe within which to respond to the Review, in recognition of current stretch in organisational capacity and that the response be provided by September 2021.

(Note: The meeting, having commenced at 6.41 pm, closed at 7.06 pm).

(Signed) Councillor Sachin Shah
Chair