

## Overview and Scrutiny Management Committee

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### MINUTES OF THE OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE MEETING HELD ON 8 JULY 2020 AT ONLINE MEETING.

#### **Present:**

Cllr Chuck Berry, Cllr Christine Crisp, Cllr Kevin Daley, Cllr Howard Greenman, Cllr Alan Hill (Vice-Chairman), Cllr Ruth Hopkinson, Cllr Gordon King, Cllr Pip Ridout, Cllr John Smale, Cllr Jo Trigg, Cllr Tony Trotman, Cllr John Walsh, Cllr Graham Wright (Chairman) and Cllr Suzanne Wickham (Substitute)

#### **Also Present:**

Cllr Ian Blair-Pilling, Cllr Pauline Church, Cllr Richard Clewer, Cllr Richard Gamble, Cllr Atiqul Hoque, Cllr Tony Jackson, Cllr Simon Jacobs, Cllr Stuart Wheeler, Cllr Philip Whitehead, Cllr Christopher Williams and Cllr Robert Yuill

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#### 37 **Election of Chairman**

Nominations were sought for a Chairman for the forthcoming year. On the nomination of Councillor Alan Hill, seconded by Councillor Christine Crisp, it was,

#### **Resolved:**

**To elect Councillor Graham Wright as Chairman for the forthcoming year.**

#### 38 **Election of Vice-Chairman**

Nominations were sought for a Vice-Chairman for the forthcoming year. On the nomination of Councillor Graham Wright seconded by Councillor Chuck Berry, it was,

#### **Resolved:**

**To elect Councillor Alan Hill as Vice-Chairman for the forthcoming year.**

#### 39 **Apologies**

Apologies were received from Councillors Stewart Dobson and Jon Hubbard. Councillor Dobson was substituted by Councillor Suzanne Wickham.

It was noted that following the meeting of Full Council on 16 June 2020, Councillor Mary Douglas had been removed as a member of the Committee, and Councillor Kevin Daley had been added as a member of the Committee.

The Chairman welcomed Councillor Daley, and the Committee expressed its thanks and appreciation to Councillor Douglas for her work across Overview and Scrutiny.

40 **Minutes of the Previous Meeting**

The minutes of the meeting held on 6 June 2020 were presented for consideration. In response to a query it was confirmed that Councillor Suzanne Wickham had been appointed to the South West Adoptions Panel. It was then,

**Resolved:**

**To approve and sign the minutes as a true and correct record.**

41 **Declarations of Interest**

There were no declarations.

42 **Chairman's Announcements**

The Chairman noted that at its meeting on 6 June 2020 it was agreed that the streamlined approach to Overview and Scrutiny during the Covid-19 pandemic would be reviewed in July, and therefore there would be a discussion on the current approach under the Forward Work Plan item.

43 **Public Participation**

There were no questions or statements submitted.

44 **Wiltshire Covid-19 Response Task Group Update**

The Chairman introduced a report as detailed in the agenda supplement from the Wiltshire Covid-19 Response Task Group, of which he was also Chairman. The Task Group had met on 7 July 2020 to consider the latest reports on Covid-19 which would be presented to Cabinet, including financial update reports, and an individual Cabinet Member decision on the options for reopening of libraries, to enable a decision to be made at the end of July following a public consultation.

The Committee received and noted the report from the Task Group. The impact of Brexit, in conjunction with the unanticipated impact of Covid-19 was raised and was then acknowledged by the Leader of the Council who was present.

It was then,

**Resolved:**

**To note the update on the meeting of the Wiltshire COVID-19 Response Task Group held on 7 July 2020.**

45 **Business Plan 2017-27: Climate Emergency Addendum and Update**

On 26 November 2019 a motion was received by Full Council on proposed amendments to the council's Business Plan 2017-2027. The motion was

referred to the Leader of the Council following his comment that work would be undertaken on the next draft of the Business Plan to give prominence to the Climate Emergency, and there would be discussion with the Global Warming and Climate Emergency Task Group.

Ahead of the review of the Business Plan, which would in any case be required due to the impact of the Covid-19 pandemic, an addendum to the current Business Plan had been prepared pending development of the plan for 2021 onwards.

As the Environment Select Committee was not presently meeting, the Committee was asked to receive the proposed addendum as detailed in the agenda supplement.

The Deputy Leader of the Council, with responsibility for response to the Climate Emergency, Councillor Richard Clewer, along with the Leader of the Council, Councillor Philip Whitehead, presented the addendum to the Business Plan, detailing the steps that had already been undertaken by the council to seek to make the council area carbon neutral by 2030 and other actions and objectives.

The Committee discussed the draft addendum, which would be considered by Full Council on 21 July 2020. There was discussion of recent announcements on insulation schemes, the timeframe of 6-9 months for a baseline carbon calculation, the level of ambition in the addendum and any updated Business Plan, that implementation plans would be discussed with Overview and Scrutiny and the significant steps toward carbon reduction which had already taken place.

At the conclusion of discussion, it was,

**Resolved:**

**To note the draft Business Plan 2017-27 Climate Emergency addendum, which will be considered by Full Council on 21 July 2020, and the input of the Global Warming and Climate Change Task Group in its development.**

46 **Forward Work Programme**

The Committee received the latest Forward Work Programmes and then discussed reviewing the current streamlined approach to Overview and Scrutiny during the Covid-19 pandemic, wherein the Select Committees and Task Groups were not meeting, but the Management Committee and the Wiltshire Covid-19 Response Task Group were undertaking necessary Overview and Scrutiny.

Noting the resolutions at its last meeting to review the situation, in particular in relation to the Financial Planning Task Group, the Committee debated whether there was sufficient Executive and officer capacity to recommence the Task Group, whether this would duplicate work which could be undertaken at the

Wiltshire Covid-19 Response Task Group which included the Chairman of the Financial Planning Task Group, and noting the level of engagement with and information provided to Members on the developing situation. It was suggested the Financial Planning Task Group could meet with its Members only, and refer items of concern or interest to the Covid-19 Response Task Group which would be supported by senior officers and Members.

Members debated the suggestion, with contributions from Members of the Executive, with some supporting the suggestion but others considering that the approach would duplicate work, and that an alternative approach would be to expand the number of those attending the Covid-19 Task Group for specific groups of Members, to enable greater depth of Overview and Scrutiny without increasing the burden on resources.

It was also agreed that scheduled meeting dates for Select Committees to resume in September 2020 should be retained, though if it proved necessary these could be amended.

At the conclusion of debate, it was,

**Resolved:**

- 1) The Wiltshire Covid-19 Response Task Group and Overview and Scrutiny Management Committee to continue to meet and consider reports to Cabinet, with the relevant Executive Member and Directors attending.**
- 2) Members of Financial Planning Task Group to be invited to attend future meetings of the Covid-19 Response Task Group, and to hold additional, separate meetings as necessary.**
- 3) To note the intention to recommence meetings of the Children's, Environment and Health Select Committees in September, taking into account developments in the covid-19 situation, with further discussion to take place between the select committee chairmen and the Executive.**

47 **Date of Next Meeting**

The date of the next scheduled meeting was confirmed a 20 September 2020. However, all meeting dates would be flexible given the ongoing COvid-19 situation.

48 **Urgent Items**

There were no urgent items.

(Duration of meeting: 12.30 - 1.40 pm)

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