

## **SCRUTINY OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY COMMITTEE**

**13 June 2019 AT 6.00 P.M. AT THE COUNCIL HOUSE**

**Committee Members Present** Councillor Murray (Chair)  
Councillor Nawaz  
Councillor S. Ditta  
Councillor Ferguson  
Councillor Harrison  
Councillor Jeavons  
Councillor Rasab  
Councillor Samra  
Councillor M. Statham

**Officers Present** James Walsh – Executive Director (Resources & Transformation)  
Craig Goodall – Senior Democratic Services Officer

**Portfolio Holders** Councillor Andrew – Deputy Leader and Regeneration  
Councillor Butler – Clean and Green  
Councillor Chatta – Personnel and Business Support  
Councillor Martin – Adult Social Care  
Councillor Towe – Education and Skills

### **165/19 APOLOGIES**

Apologies for absence were received on behalf of Councillors Hussain and Shires.

### **166/18 SUBSTITUTIONS**

There were no substitutions.

### **167/18 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST AND PARTY WHIP**

There were no declarations of interest or party whip identified at this meeting.

### **168/18 LOCAL GOVERNMENT (ACCESS TO INFORMATION) ACT 1985 (AS AMENDED)**

There were no items to consider in private session.

### **169/18 MINUTES**

**Resolved:**

**That the minutes of the meeting held on 23 April 2019, a copy having previously been circulated, be approved as a true and accurate record.**

**170/18 AREAS OF FOCUS 2019/20**

The Committee considered potential areas of focus for 2019/20.

The Executive Director (Resources and Transformation) gave a presentation that provided an overview of the Resources and Transformation Directorate and issues the Committee could potentially consider.

The Senior Democratic Services Officer highlighted carry over items from the previous municipal year and potential changes to budget scrutiny.

Members reviewed the information presented to them and agreed their areas of focus.

**Resolved:**

**That the following areas of focus for 2019/20 be agreed:**

- 1. Capital and revenue 2018/19 financial outturn;**
- 2. Capital and revenue 2019/20 quarter 2 outturn;**
- 3. Draft capital and revenue budget 2020/21;**
- 4. Corporate Plan 2018/19 outturn;**
- 5. Corporate Plan 2019/20 quarter 2 outturn;**
- 6. Walsall Proud Programme;**
- 7. Resilient and integrated communities;**
- 8. Policing in Walsall;**
- 9. Community associations;**
- 10. Workplace incidents;**
- 11. Scrutiny guidance;**
- 12. Activity reports from scrutiny chairs.**
- 13. Capital and revenue 2019/20 quarter 1 and quarter 3 reports to be circulated to Members for information.**

**171/18 OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY PRIORITIES 2019/20**

Overview and Scrutiny Chairs provided feedback on priority areas for the year ahead.

**Resolved:**

**That the reports be noted.**

172/18 **STATUTORY GUIDANCE ON OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY IN LOCAL AND COMBINED AUTHORITIES**

The Committee considered the recently issued 'Statutory Guidance on Overview and Scrutiny in Local and Combined Authorities'.

The Senior Democratic Services Officer provided an overview of the guidance. He noted that it would be important to gain a wide range of Member feedback to assist with implementing the requirements of the guidance. He suggested an all Member event to discuss it with feedback reported to the next meeting of the SOC to plan a way forward. The following are the principle points from the ensuing discussion:

- An all Member event to learn more about the guidance and gain member feedback was agreed;
- Focusing committee agendas on fewer key items was supported;
- Enhancing opportunities for Member Learning and Development on scrutiny was welcome; in particular via external training.
- A number of Members spoke out against the suggestion that Councils could appoint scrutiny chairs via secret ballot.

**Resolved:**

**That an All-Member Event on the new scrutiny guidance be organised and feedback reported to the next meeting of the Scrutiny Overview Committee.**

173/18 **DATE OF NEXT MEETING**

It was noted that the date of the next meeting was 29 August 2019.

The meeting terminated at 7.15 p.m.

Chair: .....

Date:.....