

Minutes of the Scrutiny Overview Committee held in the Council Chamber at Walsall Council House

Monday, 17 June 2024 at 6.00p.m.

Committee Members present: Councillor J Murray (Chair)
Councillor P Bott
Councillor J Chapman
Councillor S Cheema
Councillor M Follows
Councillor T Jukes
Councillor A Hicken
Councillor G Singh-Sohal
Councillor V Waters

Portfolio Holder present: Councillor M Statham – Deputy Leader and Finance
Councillor A Garcha – Resident Access and Housing Support

Officers present: Judith Greenhalgh – Executive Director of Resources and Transformation
Elise Hopkins – Director of Customer Engagement

87. **Apologies**

Apologies were received from Councillor K Hussain, Latham, Sears and Ward.

88. **Substitutions**

Councillor Cheema substituted on behalf of Councillor Ward and Councillor Jukes substituted for Councillor Latham

89. **Declarations of Interest and Party Whip**

There were no declarations of interest or party whip.

90. **Local Government (Access to Information) Act 1985 (as amended)**

There were no items to consider in private session.

91. **Minutes**

A copy of the minutes of the meeting held on the 18 April 2024 was submitted [annexed].

Resolved

That, the minutes of the meeting held on 18 April 2024, copies having previously been circulated, be approved as a true and accurate record.

92. **Areas of Focus 2024-2025**

The Chair highlighted that the Executive Portfolio Lead presentations would be presented at the next meeting of the Committee. This was due to recent appointment of a new executive administration. As such, Members welcomed and received presentations from the Executive Director of Resources and Transformation and the Director of Customer Engagement on services within the remit of the Committee. [Annexed].

The presentations outlined the key services within directorates which fall under the remit of the Committee, the structure of directorates, priority focuses within service areas, and suggested areas of focus for the Committee.

The Chair confirmed that there would be only three working groups for the municipal year across all Scrutiny Committees. Members discussed the approach to be taken regarding working groups it was agreed that proposed topics would be discussed at all overview and scrutiny committees with feedback to be taken to the next meeting of Scrutiny Overview Committee.

The Democratic Services Officer provided an overview of the outstanding items identified in the previous municipal year. Following a lengthy debate, it was resolved that the following items be included in the work programme for the 2024/2025 municipal year:

- Housing Allocation Policy
- GreenSquare Accord and Longhurst Group
- WMCA Mayor and Housing
- Member Enquiries
- Budget Setting Process
- Council Local Plan
- Scrutiny Survey
- WMCA Corporate Update
- Quarter 2 Financial Monitoring
- Draft Budget and Capital Programme
- Walsall Pound and Social Value
- WMCA Scrutiny Annual Report
- Police and Crime Commissioner and Chief Superintendent discussion
- Customer Dashboard

1. Resolved, that the work programme for 2024/25 municipal year be updated with the following items:

- a. Housing Allocation Policy**
- b. GreenSquare Accord and Longhurst Group**
- c. WMCA Mayor and Housing**
- d. Member Enquiries**
- e. Budget Setting Process**
- f. Council Local Plan**
- g. Scrutiny Survey**
- h. WMCA Corporate Update**
- i. Quarter 2 Financial Monitoring**
- j. Draft Budget and Capital Programme**
- k. Walsall Pound and Social Value**
- l. WMCA Scrutiny Annual Report**
- m. Customer Dashboard**
- n. Police and Crime Commissioner and Chief Superintendent discussion**

93. Recommendations Tracker

The Committee received the tracker of recommendations from the previous municipal year including progress made and outstanding items. [Annexed].

Resolved:

That the recommendation tracker be noted.

94. Date of next meeting

It was noted that the date of the next meeting would be on 26 September 2024.

There being no further business, the meeting terminated at 7.33p.m.

Signed:

Date: