

The Resources, Performance and Development Overview and Scrutiny Committee met at the Shire Hall, Warwick on the 10 June 2008.

Present:

Members of the Committee:

Councillor David Booth (Chair of Committee)

“ John Haynes (Deputy Chair)

“ John Appleton

“ George Atkinson

“ Les Caborn

“ Tom Cavanagh

“ Chris Davis

“ Brian Moss

“ Raj Randev

“ Dave Shilton

“ Ian Smith

“ John Vereker

Other Councillors

Councillor Alan Cockburn, Cabinet Member for Resources,

“ Peter Fowler, Cabinet Member for Partnerships and Localities.

Officers:

Performance and Development Directorate

David Carter, Strategic Director of Performance and Development,

Pete Keeley, Member Services,

Paul Williams, Scrutiny Officer,

Bill Basra, LAA Manager,

Nick Darwen, Voluntary and Community Sector Relationships Manager

Resources Directorate

Oliver Winters, Head of Finance,

1. Election of Chair

Councillor John Haynes moved, Councillor Chris Davis seconded and it was

Resolved:

That Councillor David Booth be elected as Chair of the Resources, Performance and Development Overview and Scrutiny Committee for the ensuing year.

2. Election of Vice Chair.

Councillor Brian Moss moved, Councillor David Booth seconded and it was
Resolved:

That Councillor John Haynes be elected as Vice Chair of the Resources,
Performance and Development Overview and Scrutiny Committee for the
ensuing year.

3. General

(1) Apologies

None

(2) Members' Disclosures of Personal and Prejudicial Interests

Councillors Les Caborn and Dave Shilton declared prejudicial interests in relation to any discussion under **Item 6 – 2007/08 Debt Recovery** relating to the Warwick District Council as Members of the District Council. They indicated that they would leave the room if the District Council's debt was discussed.

(3) Minutes of the meeting held on the 29 April 2008 and Matters Arising.

With regard to Minute 7 - Employee Absence Management the figures mentioned in the second bullet point related to the Adult and Community Service Directorate but this had not been show.

Resolved:

That the Minutes of the Resources, Performance and Development Overview and Scrutiny Committee be approved, as amended, and be signed by the Chair.

There were no matters arising.

4. Public Question Time (Standing Order 34)

There were no questions from the public.

5. Items for Future Meetings and Forward Plan Items Relevant to the Work of the Committee.

The Committee considered the report of the Strategic Director of Performance and Development.

The report detailed provisional items for future meetings of the Committee. It also detailed decisions to be taken by the Cabinet in the next six months which were relevant to the work of the Committee, as taken from the Forward Planning System.

Members noted that the report to the 11 November meeting relating to Development of Customer Access for the County Council, would be more comprehensive than the usual and would include details of the transfer of services such as corporate business services and progress with the One Stop Shop in Southam.

Following discussion it was agreed:

- (1) That report be submitted to a future meeting relating to the amount of underspend that has been shown in the Final Revenue Outturn figures.
- (2) That, if possible, the report about bottled water that was scheduled for the 11 November meeting, should be brought forward to the 16 September meeting.

6. LAA - Consideration of Performance and Progress

The Committee considered the report of the Strategic Director of Performance and Development which outlined the quarter 4 performance information for the current LAA and gives an update on the progress of the new LAA

Members were asked to consider the quarter 4 performance in relation to the current LAA plus the notable achievements and note the progress update given on the new LAA

During the discussion the following points were noted:

- The Public Services Board (PSB) had commissioned a joint scrutiny of those areas where performance was not in accordance with agreed targets. This would include the performance of Healthy Schools targets.
- An examination of the Healthy Schools issues under the Council's scrutiny process would be undertaken by the Children, Young People and Families Overview and Scrutiny Committee but if that Committee decided not to scrutinize it was suggested that this Committee should consider monitoring matters from a corporate perspective.
- All of six Warwickshire Councils would be represented on the scrutiny exercise.

- With certain targets such as youth offending, improved detection rates by the Police could lead to difficulties in meeting targets that were based on earlier detection rates.
- The targets under LPSA2 were stretched beyond those that the Council had proposed originally but, following Government advice, it was agreed to include the stretched targets.
- The LAA2 focused on fewer targets than LAA1.
- With regard to the performance on targets for housing units Built on Public Land/Premises, the current decrease in building rates and the attitudes of councils towards the release of capital assets, would have an impact on performance. New measures would be brought into LAA2 and the requirements of the new Spatial Strategy would be written in when agreed.

The details in Section 5 - Delivery Plan Snapshot were unclear

The Chief Executive had been invited to the next meeting to talk about LAA leadership.

It was then agreed that:

- (1) That Section 5 – Delivery Plan Snapshot should be redrafted in a more meaningful way for the Committee.
- (2) That Chris Elliot, the Stronger Communities Block Lead or his nominee, should be invited to a future meeting to brief the Committee on progress in meeting targets and future targets under LAA 2.
- (3) That, the Children, Young People and Families Overview and Scrutiny Committee be asked for an indication of its intentions regarding performance on the Healthy Schools targets and if no action it proposed, this performance issue be included in a report to this Committee from a corporate perspective.

7. Full Year Directorate Report Cards 2007/08 (April 2007 - March 2008)

The Committee considered reports containing the summary and detail of the performance indicators within the Directorate Report Cards for the Performance and Development and Resources Directorates for the full year of 2007/08.

The Committee was also asked to consider and comment on areas where performance is falling short of target, and where remedial action is being taken.

(1) Performance and Development Directorate

David Carter, Strategic Director of Performance and Development, introduced the main points in the report.

During the discussion the following points were noted:

- With regard to Corporate Performance Indicator ref BV3 – “% Residents satisfied with the way the Council runs things” the Council’s performance of 55.4% was the third highest County Council figure nationally.
- Public satisfaction from actual users of the Council’s services was high.
- The reasons for not meeting the target included the continuing impact of the council tax increases made four years ago and the type of question that was asked.
- The Community Protection Overview and Scrutiny Committee was to examine the performance under safer communities.
- Corporately 70% of targets have improved or remained the same as for the previous year.
- Further information should be provided for the Committee about the results of the Staff Survey and Mystery Shopping exercises which provided important data for the corporate issues
- There should be some communication between Overview and Scrutiny Committees about the performance areas being examined by each Committee and consideration should be given to including an item on the agenda for a future Overview and Scrutiny Co-ordinating Group.
- The Performance and Developments Directorate’s People Results were in line with the average for all directorates.
- With regard to the target relating to the number of disabled employees, the issues were being considered by the Corporate Equality Diversification Group. The focus was mainly on race and gender for target performance and there was a need to amend the profile.
- It was understood that not all disabled employees were recorded as such because the figures were based on responses from individuals.
- The lower performance relating to the accuracy of budget forecasting was mainly due to the operation of area committee grants.
- Demand for legal services for waste issues and action relating to the fire at Atherstone on Stour had impacted on the end of year budget.
- PriceWaterhouseCoopers performance indicators were less likely to be appropriate for the Performance and Development Directorate. Future reports would include other indicators.

It was agreed that

- (1) Notes with concern missed targets and looks forward to remedial action being taken to remedy things.
- (2) That the Overview and Scrutiny Co-ordinating Group should discuss the action being taken by each Overview and Scrutiny Committee to scrutinize the Council's performance.
- (3) That a further report be submitted on the results of the Staff Survey and Mystery Shopper exercises.

(2) Resources Directorate

During his introduction of the report, Oliver Winters, Head of Finance, drew attention to the overall high performance levels of the Resources

The following points were noted during the discussion:

- If process for commendations and complaints is made even easier than present, arrangements would need to be made to cater for the likely increase in volume.
- School buildings are included in returns on building maintenance. Future reports to the Committee will identify school building separately.
- Debt Recovery performance was better than in previous years.
- Further information would be submitted to the Committee relating to the benchmarking of consultants and percentage of development projects within initial cost estimate and budget framework.

The Committee noted the remedial action being taken

8. 2007/08 Debt Recovery Annual Report

The Committee considered the report of the Strategic Director of Resources which informed members of the latest position on debt recovery across the authority, providing comparative information and commentary on any issues.

Following comments from the Chair about the reasons for the debt relating to St Johns School, Oliver Winters, Head of Finance indicated that he would investigate and keep the Committee up to date with any developments with the debt.

With regard to the debt of Color Estates, Oliver Winters also agreed to contact Councillor Ian Smith direct about the instalments being made to repay the debt and to advise the Committee of the arrangements agreed for interest on the debt.

The references to former departments in the report would be changed to directorates in future reports.

Future reports would also include information about the reasons why debts in relation to residential care were increasing.

The Committee noted the remaining aspects of the report.

9. 2009/10 Budget Consultation

The Committee considered the report of the Strategic Director of Resources which sought Members views on the proposed public consultation in advance of setting the 2009/10 budget

Resolved:

That the Committee recommend the proposed budget consultation for 2009/10 to Cabinet for approval.

10. Any Other Items

(1) Proposed Announcement by the Post Office re Closures.

Members were advised of the expected announcement by the Post Office on the 24 June relating to a programme of post office closures giving a six weeks consultation period. It was intended that the final response would be agreed by the Cabinet on the 31 July.

With regard to the examination of the proposals by the relevant Overview and Scrutiny Committees, the Resources, Performance and Development Overview and Scrutiny Committee and the Economic Development Overview and Scrutiny Committee had overlapping responsibilities.

It was agreed that the proposals should be examined by a group of Members representing both Overview and Scrutiny Committees and that Councillors Les Caborn, Tom Cavanagh and Chris Davis be appointed as this Committees representatives.

(2) Modernising Member Facilities

The Chair advised the Committee that a report of the above project would be considered by the Council on the 24 June.

(3) Customer Focus Group.

The Chair reported that the Group was meeting with Directorates on the 19 June to discuss the issues in order that the review could be established.

The Committee rose at 12.10 p.m.