

EAST HAMPSHIRE DISTRICT COUNCIL

At a meeting of the Overview and Scrutiny Committee held on 17 November 2020

Present

Councillor: S Dolan (Chairman)

Councillors: S Hunt (Vice-Chairman), A Agate, B Bentley, D Evans, G Hill,
M Johnson, T Maroney, J May and B Moulard

67 Apologies for Absence

There were no apologies for absence.

68 Minutes of the Last Meeting

The minutes of the meeting held on 22 September 2020 were agreed as a correct record.

69 Chairman's Announcements

The Chairman reminded the Committee that he had agreed to provide members with updates on the Cabinet Recovery Liaison Panel of which he was member. All meetings of the Panel had been cancelled due to the current lockdown and the move to the ongoing response process. He would provide feedback to the committee once they had reconvened.

70 Declarations of Interest

There were no declarations of interest.

71 Training

The Director of Companies & Research at the Centre for Governance & Scrutiny had been approached in respect of delivering training to the committee in January 2021. A draft training plan had been circulated and views from the committee were sought.

In addition, the Local Government Association offered a mentoring and counselling service which might assist committee members in their work.

The committee supported the training offer for January 2021, but believed that training could be tailored to meet their needs following the release of the Independent Governance Report and their scrutiny of that document.

It was confirmed that there was a training budget for members that would cover this training. However, there was no defined budget for the Overview & Scrutiny function.

Following a discussion, the item was NOTED.

72 Work Programme

The Committee received two updates from the Task & Finish Groups.

Task & Finish Group – Digital Strategy

Cllr Hunt gave members an update on the work of the group.

One of the key points arising from the inaugural meeting had been for a full audit of Councillors IT equipment and connectivity to the internet to be undertaken. This was because the quality of the digital service provided would be strongly linked to members ability to connect.

The group had invited the Head of Programmes, Redesign and Quality to its next meeting and agreed to look at alternative remote meeting solutions

Task & Finish Group – Property Portfolio

Cllr Wigman gave members an update on the work of the group.

The group had met on 14 October 2020 and prioritised the areas that it wished to review:

1. Current Property Portfolio including
 - Purchase Price,
 - Current value and date of valuation,
 - Occupation rate,
 - operational costs and
 - safeguarding measures.
 - Projected annual income and actual annual income for the last 5 years
 - The percentage of properties currently only part let.
2. Procedure between the initial assessment criteria and the new process
3. Staffing levels of property services and training
 - Timeline for completing recruitment
 - Staff Structure
 - Terms of Reference for delivering service
4. Retail Property – the crossover between the Portfolio and Retail property (Woolmer Trading Estate)

The Working Group have invited officers to their next meeting.

Following a discussion, the updates were NOTED.

The meeting commenced at 6.00 pm and concluded at 6.58 pm