

PLACE AND RESOURCES OVERVIEW COMMITTEE

NOTES OF INFORMAL MEETING HELD ON FRIDAY 17 SEPTEMBER 2021

Present: Cllrs Daryl Turner (Chairman), Les Fry (Vice-Chairman), Mike Barron, Pauline Batstone, Sherry Jespersen, Carole Jones, Val Potheary and Andrew Starr

Apologies: Cllrs Roland Tarr

Also present: Cllr Jon Andrews, Cllr Shane Bartlett, Cllr Cherry Brooks, Cllr Ray Bryan, Cllr Jean Dunseith, Cllr Beryl Ezzard, Cllr Barry Goringe, Cllr Brian Heatley, Cllr Rob Hughes, Cllr Rebecca Knox, Cllr Molly Rennie, Cllr Jane Somper, Cllr David Taylor and Cllr Peter Wharf

Officers present (for all or part of the meeting):

John Sellgren (Executive Director, Place), Aidan Dunn (Executive Director - Corporate Development S151), Rebecca Forrester (Business Intelligence & Performance), Bridget Downton (Head of Business Insight and Corporate Communications), Antony Littlechild (Sustainability Team Manager), Dawn Adams (Service Manager for Commercial and Procurement), Jim McManus (Corporate Director - Finance and Commercial), James Potten (Communications Business Partner - Place) and Lindsey Watson (Senior Democratic Services Officer)

13. Declarations of interest

There were no declarations of interest.

14. Chairman's Update

The Chairman noted that the meeting was being held as a virtual meeting. Where a decision was required, committee members would express a 'minded to' decision in respect of recommendations set out in officer reports, with decisions being taken under officer delegated authority in the light of 'minded to' decisions expressed by members in the virtual meetings. Recommendations to Cabinet would also be confirmed under the relevant officer delegated authority.

15. Public Participation

There were no questions or statements from members of the public or local organisations.

16. Questions from Members

There were no questions submitted by councillors.

17. **Updated Dorset Council Plan**

The committee considered a report which set out proposed changes to the Dorset Council Plan to reflect learning and changes as a result of the Covid-19 Pandemic. An informal session of members of the council's two overview committees had been held and a draft updated plan produced following the discussions held.

The Place and Resources Overview Committee was invited to review the updated document and provide any further comments or suggestions before consideration at Cabinet on 5 October 2021.

Councillors considered the draft updated document and comments were made in the following areas:

- The importance of and links to the council's climate strategy and action plan had been recognised in the draft plan
- The name of the draft plan – the committee's suggestion to Cabinet was that the plan should either remain as the Dorset Council Plan or change to the Dorset Council Corporate Plan
- There should be recognition of the status of the council in terms of area covered and population size
- How the plan would be reviewed in future and that it should be seen as a working document
- A suggestion was made that wording around the impact of retirement issues should be re-examined
- It was confirmed that infographics would be updated with latest data where available
- A suggestion was made that wording around high quality housing including affordable housing should be re-examined
- It was recognised that some additional detail requested would be available elsewhere and could be cross referenced to in the plan where appropriate
- How outcomes from the plan would be measured and links to the council's performance management framework
- It was agreed to remove the names of particular areas of deprivation from the plan and instead provide a link to where the information was available.

The Chairman noted that the comments made at the meeting had been captured by officers to feed into the discussion to be held at Cabinet.

The Executive Director of Corporate Development confirmed that the points raised would be taken forward to Cabinet.

18. **Commercial Strategy - Commissioning and Procurement Overview**

The committee received and considered a report of the Service Manager for Commercial and Procurement which set out key changes to be made to the

council's current Corporate Procurement Strategy, prior to consideration by Cabinet on 2 November 2021.

Councillors considered the revisions to be made to the document and points were raised in the following areas:

- Clarification sought on the definition of SME (small to medium size enterprise) as used in the strategy – it was noted that this was a Government standard definition. This would be checked and updated
- Appendix A Social Value Evaluation Questions – flexibility was required for use by different size companies
- Suggestion to include Dorset Council values in the diagram 'Being more commercially minded'. This would be added
- Wording to be added to 'Principle 1: People, Skills and Development' to make reference that recruitment should be proportionate and in accordance with the council's HR policy
- To add a web link to the council's equality and diversity policy and check wording was in line with policy
- Wording to be added to 'Principle 2: Effective Commissioning' to set out best value issues
- 'Mitigating Fraud and Corruption Risks – an action line would be added in consultation with Legal Services
- There was potential to work with town and parish councils to achieve economies of scale in procurement

The Executive Director of Corporate Development thanked the committee for their comments and noted that the strategy was to be recommended to Cabinet on 2 November 2021.

'Minded to' Recommendation to Cabinet

That Cabinet approves the revision to the current Corporate Procurement Strategy that includes the following key changes:

- Change of title to "Commercial Strategy – Commissioning and Procurement"
- Consideration to refer to 'Principles' rather than 'Objectives'
- Introduction of the concept of "Being more commercially minded" as set out under the programme.
- Introduction of new objective/principle in respect of "Effective Commissioning" to ensure that cost, quality, environmental and social value are early considerations and not left till procurement.
- Outlining the requirements of the National Procurement Policy Statement (NPPS).
- Setting out the requirement for, at an early stage of commissioning, a clear and concise business case.

The points below raised by the Place & Resources Overview Committee:

- The definition of SME to be checked and updated in the document
- Addition of Dorset Council values to the diagram 'Being more commercially minded'
- Wording to be added to 'Principle 1: People, Skills and Development' to make reference that recruitment should be proportionate and in accordance with the council's HR policy
- To add a web link to the council's equality and diversity policy and check wording is in line with policy
- Wording to be added to 'Principle 2: Effective Commissioning' to set out best value issues
- 'Mitigating Fraud and Corruption Risks – an action line to be added in consultation with Legal Services

The Executive Director of Corporate Development confirmed the above recommendation to be made to Cabinet.

19. Place and Resources Overview Committee Forward Plan

Councillors noted the committee's forward plan and items to be considered at forthcoming meetings.

The Executive Director of Corporate Development noted that there may be a requirement to hold an additional meeting of the committee in November in order to consider a report on the future arrangements for Revenues and Benefits in Dorset.

20. Urgent items

There were no urgent items.

21. Exempt Business

There was no exempt business.

Duration of meeting: 10.00 - 11.05 am

Chairman

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