

PLACE AND RESOURCES SCRUTINY COMMITTEE

NOTES OF INFORMAL MEETING HELD ON TUESDAY 13 JULY 2021

Present: Cllrs Shane Bartlett (Chairman), Rod Adkins, Jon Andrews, Brian Heatley, Mike Parkes, Mark Roberts, David Shortell, David Tooke and Bill Trite

Apologies: Cllrs Andy Canning

Also present: Cllr Barry Goringe, Cllr David Gray, Cllr Nick Ireland, Cllr Carole Jones, Cllr Rebecca Knox, Cllr David Morgan, Cllr Andrew Parry, Cllr Molly Rennie, Cllr Jane Somper, Cllr Andrew Starr, Cllr David Taylor, Cllr Gill Taylor, Cllr Peter Wharf and Cllr John Worth

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

John Sellgren (Executive Director, Place), Jonathan Mair (Corporate Director - Legal & Democratic Service Monitoring Officer), Jim McManus (Corporate Director - Finance and Commercial), Matthew Piles (Corporate Director - Economic Growth and Infrastructure), Andrew Galpin (Infrastructure & Delivery Planning Manager), David Bonner (Service Manager for Business Intelligence and Performance), James Potten (Communications Business Partner - Place) and Lindsey Watson (Senior Democratic Services Officer)

CHAIRMAN'S INTRODUCTION

The Chairman welcomed all to the committee and set out the arrangements for the meeting. In addition, he noted that the Vice-chairman had sent his apologies for the meeting and therefore the committee would need to elect a Vice-chairman for the meeting.

It was proposed by A Starr seconded by M Roberts

Agreed

That D Tooke be elected Vice-chairman for the meeting.

17. Declarations of interest

There were no declarations of interest.

18. Chairman's Update

There was no update from the Chairman at this time.

19. **Public Participation**

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

20. **Questions from Members**

There were no questions from councillors.

21. **Review of Community Infrastructure Levy (CIL) expenditure**

At the request of the committee, councillors considered a report of the Infrastructure and Delivery Planning Manager to enable them to scrutinise the Community Infrastructure Levy (CIL) Governance arrangements and to invite the Executive Director for Place to recommend any proposed changes to the Place and Resources Overview Committee before Cabinet approval.

Councillors considered the issues arising from the report and discussion was held in the following areas:

- Discussion on the level of community involvement in the process
- Role of town and parish councils and work for Dorset Council in raising awareness of CIL and seeking their priorities for spend
- Link to Neighbourhood Plans
- Noted that smaller parishes had greater flexibility on how they used CIL funding – guidance had been provided to town and parish councils
- Legacy arrangements in North Dorset
- Information on the availability of S106 funding as well as CIL and what they could be used for
- Links to work on the new Local Plan and the charging schedule for setting rates moving forward
- What CIL funding could be used for and the categories and proportions set by the former councils
- Arrangements to monitor progress with projects and ensuring the council got best value for money
- The percentages of funding given were fixed and the council did not have discretion to change them
- Work could be undertaken across county borders with neighbouring councils.

Arising from the discussion, the Chairman provided a summary of the recommendations to be forwarded to Place and Resources Overview Committee.

'Minded to' Recommendations to Place and Resources Overview Committee

The following points to be considered by the Place and Resources Overview Committee:

- Regular communications to take place with town and parish councils to raise awareness of the CIL process and to provide advice so that they can engage in the process
- An increased level of ‘up-front’ community engagement to be built into the process through working with town and parish councils in advance of the funding window to get input on their priorities for spend. Recognition of the role for town and parish councils in bringing the communities’ views forward
- Under the new Dorset Council Local Plan, CIL money to be spend Dorset-wide
- To review the scoring process
- Re-evaluate the categories and proportions for spend set by the former councils, with the aim of ensuring best value for residents in how CIL monies are spent
- To agree a method for regular monitoring of CIL performance (suggestions made – through the council’s performance framework or the Annual Infrastructure Funding Statement produced in December each year which includes performance information).

The Executive Director of Place confirmed that having heard the debate and summary provided by the Chairman, he would progress the committee’s recommendations through to the Place and Resources Overview Committee for their consideration.

22. **Performance Scrutiny**

The Service Manager for Business Intelligence and Performance provided an overview of the Performance Dashboard that had been set up for the monitoring of performance for areas covered by the remit of the committee. This included an overview of the key features of the dashboard and the information that was available. A link to the performance dashboard is provided below for information:

[Place and Resources Scrutiny Committee Performance Dashboard](#)

It was noted that a Webinar would be held for all councillors to provide a demonstration of the performance tool.

Councillors asked questions about how the database was populated and how the targets were set. It was noted that the committee could have a role in challenging the targets set.

The Chairman highlighted three areas arising from the performance data as follows:

- Percentage of land charge searches processed on time / Average number of days to process local land charges
- Percentage of FOI requests answered on time
- Percentage of Subject Access Requests answered on time

These areas would be discussed further when the committee came to consider their forward plan.

23. Place and Resources Scrutiny Committee Forward Plan

Councillors reviewed the committee's forward plan and noted items to be considered at the next meeting of the committee on 21 September 2021.

Councillors considered the items that had been flagged up through the review of the performance dashboard and it was agreed to add the following to the committee's forward plan:

- Local Land Charges Services – to consider the current delays – report to committee on 21 September 2021
- Percentage of FOI requests answered on time - tbc
- Percentage of subject access requests answered on time - tbc

Other items considered included:

- A report was to be brought to the committee on 16 November 2021 with regard to the acquisition of St Marys to create a new special school and centre of excellence – further discussion would be held with the Chairman and officers to clarify the content of the report
- Local Transport Plan (LTP) – the Place and Resources Overview Committee could have a role in looking at the new LTP with this committee reviewing the current LTP to consider achievements, further work required and areas to be rolled forward into the new LTP. The brief and timing for this work needed to be determined.

24. Cabinet Forward Plan and Decisions

The committee noted the Cabinet Forward Plan and decisions taken at recent meetings.

25. Urgent items

There were no urgent items.

26. Exempt Business

There was no exempt business.

Duration of meeting: 10.00 am - 12.11 pm

Chairman

