

PLACE AND RESOURCES SCRUTINY COMMITTEE

MINUTES OF MEETING HELD ON MONDAY 25 APRIL 2022

Present: Cllrs Shane Bartlett (Chairman), Andy Canning (Vice-Chairman), Piers Brown, Brian Heatley, David Shortell and Bill Trite

Apologies: Cllrs Jon Andrews, Mark Roberts and David Tooke

Also present: Cllr Ray Bryan, Cllr Nocturin Lacey-Clarke and Cllr Laura Miller

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

John Sellgren (Executive Director, Place), Jonathan Mair (Director of Legal and Democratic), David Clegg (Service Manager for Network Operations), Jack Wiltshire (Head of Highways), Lindsey Watson (Senior Democratic Services Officer) and Kate Critchel (Senior Democratic Services Officer)

84. Minutes

The minutes of the meeting held on 8 March 2022 were agreed as a correct record and signed by the Chairman.

85. Declarations of interest

There were no declarations of interest.

86. Chairman's Update

There were no updates from the Chairman.

87. Public Participation

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

88. Questions from Members

There were no questions from councillors.

89. Dorset Highways Works Term Service Contract

The committee received and considered a report of the Service Manager for Network Operations, which provided the opportunity for the committee to evaluate and scrutinise the contractual governance system and performance of the Dorset Highways Works Term Service Contract in 2020-21.

Councillors considered the issues arising from the report and during discussion, the following areas were covered:

- Climate implications were considered and further information provided on the related key performance indicators (KPIs) for the service
- Clarification was provided in respect of the contract valuation and procurement process of the contract
- An overview of the 10 KPIs within the contract was provided and detail of how these were assessed
- Value for money issues were discussed
- Risk areas for the service were considered, which included price fluctuations and type of vehicle used, which could affect the type of materials used
- A review of suppliers was undertaken each year
- Further information was provided in respect of the workings of the Operational Board and Strategic Board
- The contract management structure was considered and the need to balance cost, quality, time and health and safety issues
- In addition to Dorset Council highways, utility companies also undertook works on the highway network. Dorset Council officers operating under the New Road and Street Works Act enforced compliance of the return of the highway to the original condition
- The Council was looking at opportunities for reciprocal trade
- Opportunities to improve the response rate for public satisfaction surveys were being looked into
- The impact of the Covid-19 pandemic was noted
- The Portfolio Holder for Highways, Travel and Environment noted that comments would be taken on board to see where improvements could be made.

The Chairman thanked officers and partners for their work and achievements in this area.

90. **Place and Resources Scrutiny Committee Forward Plan**

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

A question was raised with regard to the scrutiny of a decision relating to the Dedicated Schools Grant Debt. The Monitoring Officer advised that this issue came within the remit of the People and Health Scrutiny Committee.

The Chairman asked that the committee consider a potential review in respect of the release of sewage and pollutants into rivers.

91. **Cabinet Forward Plan and Decisions**

The committee noted the Cabinet Forward Plan and decisions taken at recent meetings, which the committee could use in order to identify potential areas for post decision review.

92. **Urgent items**

There were no urgent items.

93. **Exempt Business**

There was no exempt business.

Duration of meeting: 10.00 - 11.35 am

Chairman

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