

# EAST STAFFORDSHIRE BOROUGH COUNCIL

## **SCRUTINY (AUDIT AND VALUE FOR MONEY COUNCIL SERVICES) COMMITTEE**

Minutes of the Meeting of the Scrutiny (Audit and Value for Money Council Services) Committee held in a virtual environment on 11<sup>th</sup> February 2021 at 6.30pm.

### **Present:**

Councillors P. Hudson (Chairman), L. Beech, Mrs B. Brady, A. A. Chaudhry, A. Clarke, M. Fitzpatrick, D. F. Fletcher, S. Gaskin, R. G. Grosvenor, Mrs V. J. Gould, H. Hall, S. Sankey, C. Sylvester and C. Whittaker.

### **Officers Present:**

Sal Khan (Head of Service), Mark Rizk (Head of Service), Lisa Turner (Chief Accountant), James Abbott (Corporate and Commercial Manager), Geoff Bagnall (Principal Accountant) and Monica Henchcliffe (Senior Democratic Services Officer).

### **Also Present:**

Michael Green (External Auditor - Grant Thornton).

### 166/21 **DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

There were no declarations of interest at the commencement of the meeting.

### 167/21 **MINUTES**

#### **Resolved:**

That the Public Minutes of the meeting of the Scrutiny (Audit and Value for Money Council Services) Committee held on 17<sup>th</sup> December 2020 be approved and signed as a correct record.

Voting concerning the above decision was as follows:

Those voting for the motion	Those voting against	Those abstaining
Councillor L Beech		
Councillor B Brady		
Councillor A A Chaudhry		
Councillor A Clarke		
Councillor M Fitzpatrick		
Councillor D F Fletcher		
Councillor S Gaskin		
Councillor V J Gould		
Councillor R Grosvenor		
Councillor H Hall		
Councillor P Hudson		
Councillor S Sankey		

Councillor C Sylvester		
Councillor C Whittaker		

168/21 **URGENT BUSINESS**

There was no urgent business submitted to the meeting pursuant to Rule 12.

169/21 **TREASURY MANAGEMENT STRATEGY AND STATEMENT AND ANNUAL INVESTMENT STRATEGY 2021/2022**

The Chief Accountant presented the Treasury Management Strategy Statement and the Annual Investment Strategy 2021/22, which fulfils various statutory requirements and best practice guidelines in respect of the Council's Treasury activities and also its capital investment plans.

An opportunity for questions followed.

**Resolved:**

That Members noted the Treasury Management Strategy Statement and the Annual Investment Strategy and did not make any comments or observations to full Council.

170/21 **SCRUTINY REVIEW PROGRESS REPORTS**

The Corporate and Commercial Manager gave a brief update on the four 'live' reviews being undertaken at present by the Committee, namely:

- Digital Services – the final report would be going to the next meeting of Cabinet.
- Leisure Centre Charges – this review was now completed and the report would be brought to the next meeting of the Scrutiny Committee for approval.
- Waste Management – information gathering was presently being undertaken. A meeting would be arranged with a waste management officer to discuss and prepare the scoping paper.
- Council's IT Services – scoping paper being drafted.

It was noted that Councillor Mike Metcalfe was no long a member of the Scrutiny Committee. The Chairman requested that a Member of the committee came forward to replace Councillor Metcalfe on the sub group. Councillor M Fitzpatrick agreed to join the sub group.

Councillor R Grosvenor requested that two new reviews be added to the work programme list. He had put forward the two topics, (a) Review of the Mayoralty and (b) Cabinet Support Members for consideration.

Discussions took place and an opportunity for questions followed.

It was agreed that the review of the Mayoralty be added on to the work programme, and would be reviewed as soon as possible. The sub group would consists of Councillors Adam Clarke, Michael Fitzpatrick, Richard Grosvenor and Colin Whittaker.

Councillor Grosvenor also requested that Councillor Mrs Patricia Ackroyd be invited to the A&VFM committee meeting when this review was discussed.

It was also agreed that the review of Cabinet Support Members would be brought back to the Committee for Members consideration in the future.

**NOTED**

171/21 **PUBLIC EXECUTIVE DECISION RECORDS**

Members considered the Public Executive Decision Records.

An opportunity for questions followed.

**NOTED**

172/21 **QUESTIONS**

There were no questions submitted to the Committee prior to the meeting.

173/21 **DATE AND VENUE OF NEXT MEETING**

**Resolved:**

That the next meeting take place on Wednesday 24<sup>th</sup> March 2021 at 6.30pm.

174/20 **EXCLUSION OF THE PRESS AND PUBLIC**

**Resolved:**

That, in accordance with Section 100(A) (4) of the Local Government Act, 1972, the Press and Public be excluded from the Meeting during discussion of the following items as it would likely, in view of the nature of the business to be transacted or the nature of the proceedings that there would be disclosed exempt information as defined in the paragraph of Part 1 of Schedule 12A of the Act indicated in brackets before each item number on the Agenda:

**PRIVATE MINUTES**

**HOUSING BENEFITS UPDATE**

**Chairman**