

**OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY
 MANAGEMENT BOARD
 28 MARCH 2019**

PRESENT: COUNCILLOR R B PARKER (CHAIRMAN)

Councillors R Wootten (Vice-Chairman), Mrs J Brockway, M Brookes, Mrs K Cook, B M Dobson, R L Foulkes, C S Macey, N H Pepper and E W Strengiel

Added Members

Church Representatives: Mr S C Rudman

Councillors: P A Skinner and M A Whittington attended the meeting as observers

Officers in attendance:-

Daniel Steel (Scrutiny Officer), Nigel West (Head of Democratic Services and Statutory Scrutiny Officer), John Wickens (Chief Digital Officer) and Rachel Wilson (Democratic Services Officer)

27 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE/REPLACEMENT MEMBERS

Apologies for absence were received from Mrs P A Barnett (Parent Governor Representative), Miss A Sayer (Parent Governor Representative) and Councillor C E H Marfleet.

Apologies for absence were also received from Councillor B Young (Executive Councillor for Community Safety and People Management) and Pete Moore (Executive Director Finance and Public Protection).

28 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

There were no declarations of interest at this point in the meeting.

29 MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD ON 28 FEBRUARY 2019

RESOLVED:

That minutes of the meeting held on 28 February 2019 be approved as a correct record and signed by the Chairman.

30 ANNOUNCEMENTS BY THE CHAIRMAN, EXECUTIVE COUNCILLOR FOR RESOURCES AND COMMUNICATIONS AND CHIEF OFFICERS

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The Chairman advised that he had attended the meeting of the Executive held on 5 March 2019 and had highlighted the comments from the Board on the Quarter 3 Council Business Plan 2018/19. In particular he emphasised the Board's concern regarding the order of reporting for this item to scrutiny committees, the Board and Executive. As requested, officers had looked at a number of options for how this could be addressed. The options had been presented to Group Leaders and Corporate Management Board for their input, and a report on a proposed new way for reporting the Council Business Plan would be presented to the Board at its next meeting on 25 April 2019.

In relation to concerns which had been raised regarding adult social care and safeguarding where the source of risk was the service provider, it was noted that these would be addressed by the Executive Director and a new indicator was being developed which would measure those reports which lead to a Section 42 investigation.

As agreed at the last meeting, a joint workshop with the Audit Committee had been arranged for 30 May 2019 at 1.30pm to look at Culture and Accountability. This followed on from the last workshop in December 2018 which looked at what lessons could be learnt from Northamptonshire County Council in relation to financial resilience. An electronic appointment had been sent to members.

It was also reported that at the last meeting of the Board, a report on the membership of the Local Government Association (LGA) was considered and the Board recommended that the termination for 1 April 2019 be withdrawn and replaced with a further 12 months' notice to terminate membership of the LGA, which would mean the Council could leave the LGA on 1 April 2020. The Chairman reported that the Leader of the Council's decision was in accordance with the recommendation from the Board.

31 CONSIDERATION OF CALL-INS

None were received

32 CONSIDERATION OF COUNCILLOR CALLS FOR ACTION

None were received

33 CORPORATE SUPPORT SERVICES CONTRACT – IMT PROGRESS REPORT

Consideration was given to a report which provided an update to the Overview and Scrutiny Management Board (OSMB) on the progress made against key IMT – related transformation and transactional projects being undertaken by Serco, and other third party suppliers. Page 15 of the report set out those projects which had been completed since the last report.

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Members were provided with an opportunity to ask questions to the officers present in relation to the information contained within the report and some of the points raised during discussion included the following:

- In relation to the open text migration project, it was queried when it was likely that the status of the project would move from red to green, and how far behind the project was. The Board was advised that the project was about three weeks behind target and that the impact of this would carry on for another three to four weeks. However, it was noted that this was due to a delay in getting the technical resource from the vendor. In terms of impact, the Council would continue to use the existing platform for longer than planned as some compatibility issues had been identified with Office 365. Officers were exploring ways to resolve the outstanding issues.
- It was queried whether the Council was incurring any additional costs due to the delay to the introduction of Open Text Migration. It was acknowledged that there were some associated costs, but the delay had been caused by a third party. The costs were mainly in terms of resources from the extension of the project.
- It was queried whether the makers of the software were getting any benefit from the changes requested by the authority to integrate the Confirm Highways System, and it was noted that this was a bespoke system that was developed specifically for LCC.
- It was queried what 'Planned Stage Boundary' referred to in terms of project impact, and members were advised that this meant the project manager required information from third parties.
- In relation to the conversion to Windows 10 software, it was commented that after the automatic updates were installed there seemed to be a slowing down of the computer, and it was queried whether all of the new computers and laptops being issued to staff would have the automatic updates function switched on. Members were advised that it had been possible to defer release of the updates until they had been tested but Microsoft's update-release strategy meant the updates would automatically update eventually.
- In relation to the Corporate Card Payments project on page 16 of the report, it was queried what the 'other modern methods' referred to, and it was also highlighted that the customer not present transactions held a lot of risk and it was also queried whether customers would also be able to pay by credit card online. It was noted that there were agreements with different card processors to enable online payments in addition to the one for card holder present and contactless payments. Those departments which were planning on enabling card payments would have done their own due diligence in terms of risk.
- Members were advised that due diligence around compliance with procurement regulations had been carried out. It was also queried how this was being risk managed. Members were advised that all projects carried a risk log, and if a risk was significant it would go into the departmental log. If it was still considered significant it would be included within the corporate log.
- In relation to the project dashboards on page 19 of the report, it was queried what the forecast closure date was and the forecast/actual delivery date. It was noted that these were project technicalities, and the closure date would

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be when the project was finished and fully closed down from a commercial aspect. The Forecast/ Actual Delivery Date applied to the next milestone name on that line.

- It was highlighted that the exception reporting would focus on those projects which were listed as red or amber; however, reports would continue to include the other projects, despite being green, as members may still have questions about these projects.
- It was confirmed that completed projects were green, and it was considered that it was useful to show these as it highlighted what had been achieved. Members agreed that they were happy to leave the reporting as it was.
- The Board expressed their thanks to John Wickens and his team for the work they had done.

RESOLVED

1. That the Overview and Scrutiny Management Board note the performance of the Corporate Support Services Contract, and the performance of other project related contracts.
2. That the highlighted 20 IMT projects be noted.
3. That the proposal for IMT to report by exception for future OSMB reports be supported.

34 SCRUTINY COMMITTEE WORK PROGRAMMES

The Chairman of the Environment and Economy Scrutiny Committee, the Chairman of the Highways and Transport Scrutiny Committee and the Chairman of the Flood and Water Management Committee outlined the recent work undertaken by their committees, and the prospective work programmes.

Members were provided with the opportunity to ask questions to the Chairmen in relation to the information contained within the update and the work programmes, and some of the points raised during discussion included the following:

Environment and Economy Scrutiny Committee

- The potential impact on County Farms of replacing the European funding subsidy was referred to.
- It was felt that there could be some negative impacts within the Agriculture Bill including whether there would be any impact on the ability of the County Council to dispose of county farms land. However, it was observed that it was not the Council's policy to dispose of county farms. If a tenant was reaching retirement age, then the authority would look at succession planning and would encourage this where possible. It was also noted that if there were a number of small parcels of land that the Council would see if these could be combined to form a larger parcel.
- Members were advised that Councillor Dobson, Chairman of the Environment and Economy Scrutiny Committee had attended the forum which aimed to influence the Agriculture Bill.

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- There was a need to consider the availability of electric car charging points in car parks throughout the county. It was suggested that the North Sea Observatory might be a good location for a charging point in that area of the east coast. (Councillor K Cook declared an interest and left the meeting as her company was an installer of electric car charging points.)
- It was noted that the Council was working with Material Recovery Facilities (MRF) sites to find out what could be done in terms of simplifying the message around recycling.
- It was noted that the company Mars had a scheme encouraging customers to return plastic bags from their pet food products to them free of charge for recycling.
- In terms of education, it was highlighted that the Energy from Waste facility in North Hykeham ran a programme of school trips for young people to learn about how the waste was processed.
- Councillor Mrs Brockway requested that if there was any action in relation to the Riseholme site, she would like to be informed.
- It was noted that the theme for this years' Looked After Children and Care Leavers FAB awards had been recycling.
- In terms of the future work programme, interest was expressed in further consideration of Lincolnshire's developing relationship with the Hunan province in China and that as part of this it was important to consider the ethics of any business relationship.
- It was noted that there was a reference to an item in relation to the Skegness Countryside Business Park and members were advised that this outline plans for the development of a new business park in Skegness.

Highways and Transport Scrutiny Committee

- It was noted that the schedules for the April and June 2019 meetings of the Highways and Transport Scrutiny Committee were full, but that they did not include any items in relation to the Lincoln Western Growth Corridor. It was noted that there had been a press release by the Executive Councillor for Highways, Transport and IT. It was thought that there was a need for improvements to the Birchwood roundabout, and that the infrastructure should be in place before any new houses were built and it was suggested whether something could be added to the work programme to consider this. It was highlighted that these issues may come under the Lincoln Transport Strategy, which would be coming to the next meeting, and any concerns should be put forward at that point.
- In terms of the winter treatment of roads, it was queried whether there was any room in the system to introduce additional roads for treatment. It was noted that the Council had maintained the same number of roads and the policy had always been that if a new road was added then one needed to be taken out of the winter salting routes. The winter maintenance report was on the agenda for the next meeting. If there was a new route that members wanted included, there needed to be a case made for it.

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- It was queried whether there were any plans to programme in an item on the Coastal Highway. It was noted that it was listed as an item to be programmed, but there was not a date for it as yet.
- In relation to road classifications and frequency of inspections of pot holes, it was noted that in some cases there was more traffic on 'B' roads than 'A' roads.
- It highlighted that there was a technical link which did not work on the 'Fix my Street' fault reporting system. The Chairman of the Highways and Transport Scrutiny Committee advised that if the details could be passed to him he would follow it up with officers. It was queried whether it was thought that this was an IT issue or a highways issue, and members were advised that there had been some data matching issues between the old and new systems.
- In relation to the CCTV monitoring outside of schools, it was noted that the schools were selected based on need.
- It was noted that the road from Nettleham had now been resurfaced and it was highlighted that the highways officers had been very responsive to the parish councillors.

Flood and Water Management Scrutiny Committee

- In terms of sustainable drainage and riparian ditches, it was commented that no one was taking responsibility for them and they were a significant part of the drainage system and were being filled in and covered over. It was suggested that there was a need for a piece of work to be carried out on this issue, and it was reported that some of the drainage boards were now looking into it.
- In terms of water resources, it was commented that there was a need to look strategically as Lincolnshire was one of the driest counties in the country, and it was queried whether there was a plan to build reservoirs in the south of the county.

RESOLVED

That the content of the work programmes of the Environment and Economy, Highways and Transport and Flood and Water Management Scrutiny Committees be noted.

35 OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY MANAGEMENT BOARD WORK PROGRAMME

Consideration was given to a report which enabled the Board to consider and comment on the content of its work programme for the coming year to ensure that scrutiny activity was focused where it could be of greatest benefit.

Members were provided with the opportunity to ask questions to the officers present in relation to the information contained within the report and some of the points raised during discussion included the following:

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- There were three pre-decision scrutiny items scheduled for the April meeting
- It was queried when the working group on exiting the EU would be completed. Members were advised that Justin Brown in Economic Development was leading on this, and further meetings had been set up for May/June. It would be requested that a progress report be provided to the Board at a future meeting. It was noted that there had recently been an article in The Municipal Journal which suggested that there may be more money available for local authorities and the Chairman would circulate this to members.

RESOLVED

That the Board's work programme, as set out in Appendix A of the report, be noted and agreed.

The meeting closed at 12.05 pm