

Appendix D

Extract from the draft minutes of the Scrutiny Panel meeting of 12 December 2017

144. Half Year 2017-2018 Performance report including Strategic Plan Action Plan

Matthew Sterling, Assistant Director for Policy and Corporate, and Councillor Young, Portfolio Holder for Business and Culture introduced the report. The report requests that the Scrutiny Panel consider the performance described in the reports and the organisations ability to operate effectively and achieve its strategic goals. The report also requests that the Panel consider the progress of the key performance indicators ahead of the Cabinet meeting on 31 January 2018.

Matthew Sterling provided the Panel with a summary of the reports. This included highlighting that the Council has a total of thirteen key performance indicators, of which eleven are green, one is amber and one is categorised as red. Matthew Sterling drew the Panels attention to the green indicators of the collection of housing benefit and local council tax support as well as net additional homes provided. Matthew Sterling also provided details of the Strategic Plan Action Plan for the half year to date. This included highlighting the big choice award as well as the Creative Business Centre. In addition, Matthew Sterling informed the Panel that the Council has a total of eighteen apprentices this year.

A member of the Panel raised concerns that the information provided in the report relating to affordable homes was not presented in an easy to read format. Further information on the number of affordable homes through section 106 agreements, as well as a yearly split would have been helpful to provide a better picture of the current situation. In response Matthew Sterling confirmed that the Council has a policy of 20% of new homes on qualifying sites be affordable and that this had been achieved on the three qualifying sites so far during the year. There are a number of smaller developments, of under ten new houses, which fall beneath the criteria for having affordable homes. For those outside of the qualifying sites the report details, as part of a key performance indicator, the gross number of affordable homes delivered. Councillor Young informed the Panel that whilst this level of detail is not included in this report, more detail on this matter can be obtained from the Portfolio Holder for Housing.

A further question was asked regarding the improved street cleaning and why five areas had been singled out for extra cleaning. In response Matthew Sterling stated that

cleaning occurs across the Borough, however areas that have events and facilities that increased footfall, like the Town Centre, will have increased levels of cleaning. In terms of other areas for potential cleaning Matthew Sterling informed Councillors that these discussions should take place with the Portfolio Holder.

Councillor Young provided members of the Panel with confirmation that the night of action did take place in October alongside a number of different agencies.

Following a request for further detail about the Colchester transport scheme, Councillor Young confirmed that this is on going and that meetings have been held at a senior level. Particular points regarding bus services in Tiptree should be discussed with Councillor Bentley who is involved in these discussions from an Essex County Council viewpoint.

Responding to a question regarding rough sleeper coordinators, Matthew Sterling stated that it was too soon to judge the impact of these roles. The funding for the positions would last two years with a full evaluation taking place when it ends. More information on the roles can be provided to the Panel if requested.

RESOLVED that the Panel considered and commented on the Half Year 2017-18 Performance report including progress on Strategic Plan Action Plan.