

Overview and Scrutiny Board

6th October 2021

Meeting commenced: 14:00

Meeting ended: 15:25 and was followed by a training session for members on the Collection Fund

Present in Person

Councillors:

Bellamy, Brocklehurst, Burch, Gina Reynolds (in the chair), Sharpe and Joan Walsh

Invited guest: Councillor Hinds

Clerk:

Carol Eddleston – Democratic Services

Officers in Attendance Online

Joanne Hardman – Chief Finance Officer

Chris Hesketh – Head of Financial Management

1. Apologies for Absence

Apologies for absence were submitted on behalf of Councillors Dickman, K Garrido, Pevitt and Turner.

2. Declarations of Interest

There were no declarations of interest.

3. Minutes of the Previous Meeting and Matters Arising

The minutes of the meeting held on 6th September 2021 were approved as a correct record subject to the correction of the start and end times and the addition of a reference to the fact that the formal meeting was preceded by a training session on treasury management.

Councillor Reynolds reported that she had circulated further information on Minimum Revenue Provision (MRP) and she thanked Councillor K Garrido for raising Treasury Management training at full Council. This had now been arranged.

RESOLVED, THAT: subject to the amendments outlined above, the minutes of the meeting held on 6th September 2021 be approved as a correct record.

4. Six Monthly Updates of the Scrutiny Panels

Scrutiny Panel chairs and vice-chairs presented a summary of the work that their panels had carried out to date in 2021/22 or had planned for the remainder of 2021/22, with the following aspects highlighted:

- *Children's Scrutiny Panel*
 - Corporate Parenting Panel (CPP) meeting feedback from members had been added as a standing item and the chair had met with the Lead Member to discuss the mechanism for feedback from / scrutiny of the CPP.

- Corporate Parenting Panel was undergoing a review and now would be an excellent time for members to join it who not been on it before.
- The Chair had attended an excellent LGA training session, designed primarily for Children’s Scrutiny chairs, but which he would recommend to scrutiny chairs generally.
- *Community & Neighbourhoods Scrutiny Panel*
 - The Neighbourhoods Review scheduled for January 2022 would provide a good opportunity to review the arrangements implemented following the boundary changes in May 2021.
 - The Abeyance List included some interesting items for the panel to scrutinise.
- *Growth & Prosperity Scrutiny Panel*
 - Impact of the end of the Furlough Scheme on businesses in Salford would be particularly interesting.
 - Review of Travel Plans – developers tended to be amenable to a relatively small amount being set aside specifically to appoint a co-ordinator to take responsibility for the plan.
 - Ongoing lobbying of Highways England for greater protection of wildlife with success at getting our suggestions implemented nationally.
 - Government incentives for installing electric vehicle charging points had been scaled back as costs had come down.
 - Update on Gully Cleaning and Maintenance was scheduled shortly and it was acknowledged that parked cars sometimes inevitably hindered effective access.
- *Health & Social Care Scrutiny Panel*
 - COVID-19 Update and NHS Reforms (including disbanding of Public Health England) were now standing items.
 - There seemed to be some confusion amongst secondary school Head Teachers and Business Management teams in particular about the current guidance on attendance if somebody in the household tested positive for COVID-19 and it was suggested that it would be timely for a reminder to be sent to all schools.
 - Verbal and physical violence against NHS staff had long been an issue but seemed to be getting worse in the current climate. This would be discussed at the October meeting.
 - There had been a lengthy discussion at the meeting earlier in the day about GP access, including concerns about potential delays in diagnoses and the difficulties faced by some residents in actually securing/attending a GP appointment, particularly those who were not confident using / did not have access to technology. This opened up a wider discussion about the digital inclusion that the Council was doing and the fact that the topic was cross cutting and not limited purely to the Health and Social Care Scrutiny Panel.

[Clerk’s note:

Reference was made to Quality Accounts (SRFT, GMMH, NWAS) on the abeyance list. A Quality Account is a written report, which NHS healthcare service providers are required to publish on the NHS website each year, summarising the quality of their services during the previous financial year. Publication fulfils providers’ obligation to submit the report to the Secretary of State.

One of the elements included in the Quality Account relates to clinical audit. The Quality Account requires details of the trust’s clinical audit participation for each of the national audits, enquiries and

quality improvement programmes they participate in, along with information related to improvements responding to clinical audit report recommendations.

Following the meeting Councillor Reynolds received the following responses to questions raised in the course of the meeting which she had followed up with Debbie Brown and Steve Fry:

- **Question: Do we know how many people are digitally excluded in Salford?**
- **Answer: We predict it is still around 15k who don't have full digital skills, we have created a digital risk index that takes into account numerous factors that add to people becoming digitally excluded, this is something we can demo. This index really allows us to focus on delivery plans within specific neighbourhoods.**
- **Question: When did SCC last promote an offer of support with regards to getting online in the 'LIFE IN Salford' magazine?**
- **Answer: We regularly promote aspects of the programme, for example, 'cloud coffee and chat' was in the latest addition. On reflection we could add a more focused section on digital everyone, explaining what the partnership is about and what it offers to residents. We will speak to comms about this, so we can secure a spot in the next edition.**

Officers have informed Councillor Reynolds that they are due to bring an update on customer services to the next meeting. They have said they will ensure that we also have a good focus on the digital inclusion work we have carried out, including what is planned for the future. This will provide us with an opportunity to scrutinise this area further.]

RESOLVED, THAT:

- 1) the update on the work of the Scrutiny Panels carried out to date and planned for the remainder of 2021/22 be noted.
- 2) Councillors Brocklehurst, Burch and Sharpe discuss their thoughts on how best, and through which forum, to take forward wider discussions on GP access.
- 3) Public Health be recommended to re-circulate to all schools the current guidance on attendance and self isolation.

5. Work Programme 2021/22

Councillor Reynolds explained that the Audit and Accounts Committee Update had been moved to the meeting on 1st December to better align with the delayed audit sign-off of the council's Statement of Accounts.

RESOLVED, THAT: the work programme as presented be agreed.

6. Any Other Business

There were no items of any other business.

7. Date and Time of Next Meeting

Wednesday 3rd November at 2:00pm (pre-meet for board members only at 1:45pm).

