

Chairman - Councillor R P Cooke

Present (for all or part of the meeting):-

Councillors:

M G Dodson

I D Fordham

A T A Godfrey

A S Harp

R A James

E G R Jones

R Kenney

G P K Pardesi

P Roycroft

Cabinet Member - Councillor J M Pert - Deputy Leader of the Council

Cabinet Member - Councillor R M Smith - Resources Portfolio

Cabinet Member - Councillor C V Trowbridge - Leisure Portfolio

Cabinet Member - Councillor M J Winnington - Environment Portfolio

Mr J Rowe - Freedom Leisure

Mrs E Hulse - Freedom Leisure

Officers in attendance:-

Mr I Curran - Head of Law and Administration

Dr T Redpath - Interim Head of Corporate Business and
Partnerships

Mr L Booth - Interim Neighbourhood Services Group Manager

Mrs E Fullagar - Chief Accountant

Ms V Burke - Assistant Contracts Manager

Mr A Bailey - Scrutiny Officer

RSC14 Minutes

The Minutes of the last meeting held on 23 August 2022, as published on the Council's website, were submitted and signed.

RSC15 Freedom Leisure Annual Report 2021/22

The Committee considered the report of the Interim Head of Operations (V1 25/10/22) that provided the Committee with the Freedom Leisure Annual Report to scrutinise. The Annual Report had been received by the Council and related to the period from April 2021 to March 2022 in respect of the Leisure and Cultural Services contract that Freedom Leisure manage on behalf of the Council. Freedom Leisure had written the Annual Report.

Mr J Rowe and Mrs E Hulse from Freedom Leisure attended the meeting and presented their Annual Report to the Committee.

Following the introduction, the Committee clarified the following aspects of the report with the representatives from Freedom Leisure and the Cabinet Member (Leisure Portfolio):-

- The purpose of installing the Gatehouse Malcolm Edwards Theatre lighting rig and the impact this had on operations
- How fitness memberships to pre-Covid levels would be increased
- Opportunities to continue the Holiday Activities Fund project
- The reasons for the referenced recruitment and retention issues and the specific roles alluded to
- The performance of Freedom Leisure's other contracts across the country and the impact on the Stafford contract
- The Shakespeare Festival
- The timing of the Annual report for the Committee
- The seating arrangement in the Malcolm Edwards Theatre
- The impact of inflation and energy price increases on the delivery of the contract
- The long-term future of the Freedom Leisure Contract

RESOLVED:- that in exercise of the powers delegated to the Committee:-

- (a) that Freedom Leisure be thanked for their presentation of their Annual Report April 2021 to March 2022;
- (b) the Freedom Leisure Annual Report April 2021 to March 2022 be noted.

RSC16 Fees and Charges Review 2023

This matter had been considered by Cabinet at its meeting held on 3 November 2022 and was submitted to this Committee for consultation.

The Committee considered the report of the Head of Finance (V1 26/10/22) in relation to proposed Fees and Charges for 2023.

The Committee discussed the following aspects of the report with the Deputy Leader, the Head of Law and Administration and the Chief Accountant:-

- Section 106 Agreement Deed of Variation Charge
- The projected budget gap of £2 million for 2023-24
- Clarification of the authority to set Fees and Charges as detailed in the Financial Procedure Rules in the Constitution

RESOLVED:- that in exercise of the powers delegated to the Committee, the decision of the Cabinet as set out in Minute No CAB34/22, regarding the proposed Fees and Charges for 2023 be noted.

RSC17 Quarter 2 Performance Reporting

The Committee considered the performance and financial management details for those areas within the remit of the Committee for the 2022/23 quarter 2 period (V1 31/10/2022).

The Committee discussed the following aspects of the report with the Deputy Leader of the Council, the Head of Law and Administration and the Chief Accountant:-

- Environment Portfolio - Reduced Crematorium Income (£85,000)
- Environment Portfolio - Reduced Cemeteries Income (£17,000)
- Environment Portfolio - Reduced Pest Control Income (£11,000)
- Environment Portfolio - Reduced Dry Recycling Gate Fees (£152,000)
- Staffing Variations - All Portfolios
- Planning and Regeneration Portfolio - Staffing Variations
- Law and Administration - Staffing Variations
- Technology - Staffing Variations
- Items to be Allocated

RESOLVED:- that in exercise of the powers delegated to the Committee, the performance and financial management data relating to areas of activity within this Committee's remit be noted.

RSC18 Review of the Constitution

Considered the report of the Head of Law and Administration relating to the need to review the Council's present Constitution and a mechanism with which to undertake such a review.

The Committee confirmed the following the following dates and times of the meetings in which to undertake the Review of the Constitution:-

- 5.30 pm on Monday 23 January 2023
- 5.30 pm on Tuesday 7 February 2023
- 5.30 pm on Tuesday 28 February 2023 (Followed by the scheduled Resources Scrutiny Committee on that evening to confirm the amendments)

RESOLVED:- that in exercise of the powers delegated to the Committee, a Task and Finish Review Working Group be established in order to undertake a review of the Council's Constitution.

RSC19 Work Programme - Resources Scrutiny Committee

Considered the report of the Head of Law and Administration (V1 31/10/22), which presented the Resources Scrutiny Committee's Work Programme for the forthcoming Municipal Year.

The Committee discussed details of the forthcoming Procurement Task and Finish Review and the process for the reporting of the Council's Reserves.

RESOLVED:- that in exercise of the powers delegated to the Committee, the Work Programme be approved, subject to the amendments made at the meeting.

CHAIR