



East Cambridgeshire District Council

MINUTES OF A MEETING OF THE OPERATIONAL SERVICES COMMITTEE HELD AT THE GRANGE, NUTHOLT LANE, ELY, CB7 4EE AT 4:30PM ON MONDAY 24TH JUNE 2024

PRESENT

Cllr Anna Bailey (substitute)
Cllr Christine Colbert
Cllr Martin Goodearl
Cllr John Trapp (substitute)
Cllr Julia Huffer
Cllr Kelli Pettitt
Cllr Alan Sharp
Cllr Lucius Vellacott
Cllr Ross Trent
Cllr Christine Whelan

OFFICERS

Isabel Edgar – Director Operations
Anne Wareham – Senior Accountant
David Morren – Interim Planning Manager
Cat Sutherland - Waste Development and Support Manager
Jane Webb – Democratic Services & Elections Manager

IN ATTENDANCE

Nigel Ankers - Finance Manager ECSS
Melanie Wright – Communications Officer
Liz Knox – Environmental Services Manager

1. Public Question Time

No public questions were submitted.

2. Apologies and Substitutions

Apologies for absence were received from Cllr Christine Ambrose Smith, Cllr Katherin Holtzmann, and Cllr Mark Inskip.

Cllr Anna Bailey and Cllr John Trapp were in attendance as substitutes.

3. Declarations of Interest

There were no declarations of interest.

4. Minutes

It was resolved:

That the minutes of the meeting of the Committee held on 25 March 2024 be confirmed as a correct record and signed by the Chair.

5. Chair's Announcements

The Chair made the following announcements:

- Welcomed Cllr Trent to his first Operational Services committee meeting
- Thanked Cllr Sharp for his service as Vice Chair in the past year and welcomed Cllr Vellacott as the new Vice Chair.

6. Budget Outturn Report

The Committee considered a report, Z15 previously circulated, containing details of the yearend financial position for services under the Operational Services Committee.

The Senior Accountant introduced the report and Members asked the following questions.

Cllr Christine Whelan enquired about the plans for assisting Ukrainian visitors since there was unused grant money. The Senior Accountant clarified that there were sufficient funds in the housing budget for another round of support this year, so there was no need to carry over the underspent amount to the next year.

The Senior Accountant clarified to Cllr Trapp that there was leftover money from the Disability Facilities Grant spending during the COVID years. As new funding became available, it was decided to keep only a portion of the remaining funds.

It was resolved:

1. That the 2023/24 revenue overspend on Operational Services Committee of £135,580 when compared to its approved budget of £6,907,262 be noted.
2. That the capital programme outturn of £2,861,753, an underspend of £2,776,060 when compared to its revised Capital budget, be noted.

7. Q4 2023/24 Waste Service Performance & Project Highlight Report

The Committee considered a report, Z16 previously circulated, containing the Quarter 4 performance of the waste and street cleansing services delivery by East Cambs Street Scene (ECSS).

The Waste Development and Support Manager presented the report and Members made comments and asked questions.

The Chair expressed her delight in the names chosen for the Council's waste and recycling collection lorries and particularly liked "Bin Diesel" and "Wheelie Cathedral."

In response to Cllr Goodearl, the Waste Development and Support Manager explained that due to manual cross-referencing, the team could filter out the invalid requests for missed bins. She stated that the new BARTEC cab system needed more integration before final implementation. The Chair expressed her gratitude to the team for their hard work, especially during the hot weather.

It was resolved that the performance of service delivery for quarter 4 (January to March) 2023/24 be noted.

8. Review of Planning Services Pre-Application Fees

The Committee considered a report, Z17 previously circulated, containing the changes to the Planning Pre-Application advice charges following the recent Planning Review and Audit recommendation.

The report was presented by the Interim Planning Manager.

Cllr Bailey praised the review, acknowledging the hard work put into it. She noted that whilst the planning service was excellent, there were also areas that could be enhanced and emphasised the importance of using extension of time only when necessary. Cllr Bailey also suggested distributing the simple and clear booklet given at the Planning Committee meeting to all non-planning Members.

It was unanimously resolved that:

- 1) The new fees and charges for the Planning Service, with effect from 1 July 2024 be approved.
- 2) The review of pre-application fees and charges annually in line with the Council-wide annual fees and charges budget setting process be approved.

9. Representation on Outside Bodies and Annual Reports

The Committee considered a report, Z18 previously circulated, regarding the annual reports of Outside Bodies within the remit of this Committee.

The Democratic Services & Elections Manager stated that the Council had received notification that as well as one Conservative Member being appointed to the Cambridgeshire Police and Crime Panel, a further request had been received to include a Liberal Democrat to join the Cambridgeshire Police and Crime Panel.

A notification had been received that Cllr Christine Whelan would be nominated as the main Member, but a Member was still required to be nominated as a substitution.

Cllr Christine Whelan informed Members that Cllr Ross Trent would be her substitute on the Cambridgeshire Police and Crime Panel.

It was resolved:

1. That Cllr Christine Whelan be appointed to the Cambridgeshire Police and Crime Panel from the Liberal Democrat Group and Cllr Ross Trent as her name substitute.
2. That the annual reports from Council representatives on Outside Bodies within the responsibility of the Operational Services Committee as detailed at Appendix 2 to the submitted report be noted.

10. Member Waste Working Party Minutes (April & May)

The Committee received the Notes of the Waste Service Review Working Party meetings held on 15 April 2024 and 13 May 2024.

The Chair announced that the upcoming Waste Working Party meeting was scheduled for 8 July. During this meeting, the recommendations would be finalised and presented at the next Operational Services Committee meeting in September. Cllr Vellacott stated that an extension to the Memorandum of Agreement would be discussed at the next Council meeting.

It was resolved:

That the Notes of the Waste Service Review Working Party meetings held on 15 April and 13 May 2024 be noted.

11. Forward Agenda Plan

The Chair confirmed that the next meeting of the Committee was scheduled for 23 September 2024.

It was resolved:

That the Forward Agenda Plan be noted.

12. Exclusion of the Press and Public

It was resolved unanimously:

That the press and public be excluded during the consideration of the remaining items because it is likely, in view of the nature of the business to be transacted or the nature

of the proceedings, that if members of the public were present during the items there would be disclosure to them of exempt information of Categories 1 & 3 of Part 1 Schedule 12A to the Local Government Act 1972 (as amended).

13. ECSS Management Accounts - EXEMPT

The Committee received the ECSS Management Accounts.

It was resolved that:

THE ECSS Management Accounts be noted.

The meeting concluded at 4:55pm

Chair

Date.....