

TONBRIDGE AND MALLING BOROUGH COUNCIL

OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY COMMITTEE

Thursday, 18th June, 2020

Present: Cllr J L Sergison (Chairman), Cllr Mrs A S Oakley (Vice-Chairman), Cllr Mrs J A Anderson, Cllr M C Base, Cllr T Bishop, Cllr J L Botten, Cllr M D Boughton, Cllr C Brown, Cllr M A J Hood, Cllr H S Rogers, Cllr M Taylor and Cllr Miss G E Thomas

Councillors Mrs P A Bates, R P Betts, V M C Branson, N J Heslop, D W King, D Lettington, P J Montague, W E Palmer and M R Rhodes were also present pursuant to Council Procedure Rule No 15.21.

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors F G Tombolis (Vice-Chairman), D Keers and D Thornevell.

PART 1 - PUBLIC

OS 20/10 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

There were no declarations of interest made in accordance with the Code of Conduct.

OS 20/11 MINUTES

RESOLVED: That the Minutes of the meeting of the Overview and Scrutiny Committee held on 15 January 2020 be approved as a correct record and signed by the Chairman.

DECISIONS TAKEN BY THE COMMITTEE

OS 20/12 REVISED OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY PROGRAMME

The report of the Chief Executive advised that due to the Borough Council's role in the emergency response to Covid-19 the previously agreed programme of the Overview and Scrutiny Committee had been placed on hold. Whilst work to scrutinise some of these review areas had started, the coronavirus pandemic had significantly impacted on work streams for all areas of the Borough Council, as well as dramatically changing the landscape for the community. It was recognised that a return to 'business as usual' approach was unlikely and there should be a focus on a 'new normal'.

However, as a result of the easing of the lockdown measures and planning for the recovery phase it was considered appropriate to re-establish a programme of meetings for this committee. The report outlined an opportunity for the Committee to re-scope its programme of work aligned to the three themes of review, re-orientation and recovery.

Members supported the proposed amendments to the original reviews and the extension of some funding arrangements until the end of the financial year, which offered schemes and organisations a level of security for the short term. It was commented that this provided an opportunity for the Borough Council to explore new models of operation and service delivery to support the longer term recovery of the Authority.

RESOLVED: That

- (1) the following amendments to the original reviews (as set out in paragraph 1.2.1) be adopted:
 - Review of the Councils Public Health Function – to be focused on the role of the “One You” health team throughout the Covid-19 crisis and future support that can be offered by this team to aid the recovery process;
 - Disabled Facilities Grants /Hospital Discharge Scheme – to be deferred pending consideration of the Better Care Fund allocation for 2020/21;
 - Review of Community Safety and CCTV – to be deferred pending further consideration by Cabinet;
 - Review of Anti-Social Behaviour in Housing Association Properties – review to be deferred with a revised scope to include wider issues that impact on tenants;
 - Review of Council Marketing/Media – this topic to be considered as part of a wider review of the Council’s response to the pandemic;
 - Review of Grant Support to Voluntary Sector organisations and groups – this topic to be considered as part of a wider review focussing on recovery for the voluntary sector; and
- (2) a revised programme of reviews focused on Review, Re-orientation and Recovery be agreed as follows:
 - Community Hub
 - Business Support
 - Recovery for the Voluntary and Community Sector
 - Media and Communications
 - One You health team – recovery support
 - Homeworking and virtual meetings

MATTERS FOR CONSIDERATION IN PRIVATE

OS 20/13 EXCLUSION OF PRESS AND PUBLIC

There were no items considered in private.

The meeting ended at 7.57 pm