



# Strategic Planning & Environment

## Overview & Scrutiny

### Agenda

**TUESDAY 22 JANUARY 2019 AT 7.30 PM**

#### **Conference Room 2 - The Forum**

The Councillors listed below are requested to attend the above meeting, on the day and at the time and place stated, to consider the business set out in this agenda.

#### Membership

Councillor Anderson (Chairman)  
Councillor Bateman  
Councillor Birnie (Vice-Chairman)  
Councillor Fisher  
Councillor S Hearn  
Councillor Hicks  
Councillor Howard

Councillor Matthews  
Councillor Ransley  
Councillor Riddick  
Councillor Silwal  
Councillor Timmis  
Councillor C Wyatt-Lowe

#### **Substitute Members:**

Councillors G Adshead, England, Link, McLean, Pringle, Ritchie and Tindall

For further information, please contact Corporate and Democratic Support or 01442 228209

### **AGENDA**

**1. MINUTES** (Pages 3 - 7)

To agree the minutes of the previous meeting.

**2. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE**

To receive any apologies for absence.

**3. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

To receive any declarations of interest.

**4. PUBLIC PARTICIPATION**

5. **CONSIDERATION OF ANY MATTER REFERRED TO THE COMMITTEE IN RELATION TO CALL-IN**
6. **ENVIRONMENTAL MANAGEMENT SYSTEM UPDATE**  
To provide an update on the ISO 14001 accreditation  
Report to follow
7. **LUTON AIRPORT UPDATE**  
Report to follow.
8. **STATION GATEWAY SUPPLEMENTARY PLANNING DOCUMENT**  
Report to follow
9. **WORK PROGRAMME** (Pages 8 - 9)

## MINUTES

### STRATEGIC PLANNING AND ENVIRONMENT OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY COMMITTEE

04 DECEMBER 2018

Following a joint meeting of the OSC's where a budget presentation was given, the Strategic Planning and Environment Overview and Scrutiny Meeting began at 8.07 pm.

#### Present:

Councillor Howard (Acting Chair)	Cllr Timmis
Councillor Fisher	Cllr Wyatt-Lowe
Councillor Hicks	
Councillor Ransley	
Councillor Riddick	

#### Officers:

David Austin	Assistant Director - Neighbourhood Delivery
James Doe	Assistant Director – Planning, Development and Regeneration
Mark Gaynor	Corporate Director – Housing and Regeneration
Craig Thorpe	Group Manager – Environmental Services
Fiona Jump	Group Manager – Financial Services
Sharon Burr	Corporate and Democratic Support Officer

#### Others:

Councillor Marshall	Portfolio Holder - Environmental Services
Councillor G Sutton	Portfolio Holder - Planning and Infrastructure

#### OS/134/18 MINUTES

The minutes of the last meeting were not yet available for signature.

**OS/135/18 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE**

Apologies were received from Cllr Anderson and Cllr S Hearn. In the absence of Vice Chairman Cllr Birnie, Cllr Howard acted as chair.

**OS/136/18 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

There were no declarations of interest.

**OS/137/18 PUBLIC PARTICIPATION**

There was no public participation.

**OS/138/18 CONSIDERATION OF ANY MATTER REFERRED TO THE COMMITTEE IN RELATION TO CALL-IN**

None.

**OS/139/18 BUDGET PREPARATIONS 2019/20**

D Austin gave the presentation for his service.

Cllr Wyatt-Lowe said that as CSG is public facing cuts may impact residents view, if you can't make the savings there how would they be achieved.

D Austin answered that based on spend this year and previous years – we have not had any particularly adverse comments and there will be more work done particularly on enforcement before continuing.

C Thorpe explained that as people retire or leave the policy is to wait until there are a few vacancies and then recruit in batches.

Cllr Wyatt-Lowe asked how the department managed without those staff.

C Thorpe explained that the shortages were only short term.

Cllr Hicks asked how much of the fuel saving was down to efficient routes and how much to lower prices.

D Austin explained that the majority is down to the work that has been done around route organisation. Fuel we cannot predict and we would be affected by any rises in price.

Cllr Hicks asked how the profits and takings were divided from the kiosk in the Splash Park.

D Austin said that a profit share arrangement was put in place for the current year and we received £6000 from this.

Cllr Fisher said that now the pilot scheme for flats has ended, what would the cost be.

D Austin said there was strong support for the continuation of the scheme there would be a plan of action for cabinet in January, and at that time we will have to consider the financial implication. .

Cllr Riddick asked C Thorpe what happens to the personnel and equipment used for green bin collection during the months it is not collected.

C Thorpe said that they utilise the staff, holding training courses, encouraging annual leave to be taken at this time by increasing the amount of staff that can take it at the same time etc.He added that it meant we do not have to employ agency staff during this period.

Cllr Howard asked if there was flexibility built in for agency staff.

D Austin replied that sickness and holidays were built into the budget and were accounted for.

Cllr Fisher asked if prices rise for commercial waste, will we lose customers.

D Austin said that it may be a possibility but we need to cover costs and we are putting together a customer care.plan.

Cllr Howard asked whether that would come to this committee, as she thought there was a suggestion that the result of that enquiry would come to this committee.

D Austin explained that it was not designated as an individual item at the moment but a report could be arranged.

Cllr Ransley said that on the subject of commercial waste, would there come a point that it may not be cost-efficient to run if we do lose customers.

D Austin replied that we do have to offer the service and in overall terms we are not losing on it.

James Doe gave this presentation for his service.

J Doe explained that there are two groups to the service Development and Management Planning covering planning applications, related applications, enforcement and land charges and building control a budget of just under £2 million. We are putting in a one off request for growth in building control of £60,000 at the same time we are offering efficiency savings of £60,000.

On the Strategic Planning and Regeneration side the budget is about £1.5 million and for this coming financial year a one off request to top up the local plan budget – savings of £30,000 proposed.

Cllr Hicks asked £146,000 extra this year for the local plan do we not tuck away money every year for contingencies.

J Doe answered that we do.

F Jump reiterated that we do and said that the proposal is to top up the reserves as mentioned by James Deane in his presentation. Net £254,000 left in the reserve at the end of next year.

Cllr Hicks wanted to know if when the plan was finalised would the rest of the money get eaten up at that point.

J Doe explained that it was the amount simply for the coming financial year, we will need to review what is needed for 20/21 and beyond. He warned that the review of local plans is becoming much more frequent and you have to have an up to date plan every five year period effectively, it is something that will recur and so we cannot put a certain amount of money to bed.

Cllr Wyatt Lowe enquired about reducing the tourism budget to £6k and she said that she knows we have to save money but wondered what sort of impact this would have on the tourist economy and if it did not have an impact was it worth spending any money on tourism.

C Taylor said that the SLA we have with Visit Herts has not generated the activity that we would like to have seen for the money. Every other authority in Herts but us buys in at that lower level. We thought we were getting much more for our additional money but this expectation has not been met. We pick up some of the events that we do and managing the tourist website is still dealt with in house so that is not something that we will drop but it does not appear that we are getting good value for that £20,000 difference.

Cllr Wyatt Lowe asked if we would still have got the Tour of Britain Cycle Race without Visit Herts

C Taylor said that she thought we would have done as she believed it was down to contacts with British Cycling.

Cllr Howard asked whether it was possible to look at the very good agency staff that we are using and putting them on a firm contract.

J Doe replied that the agency staff that are employed at the moment are very good indeed, the issue is around the Council's pay structure.

Cllr Wyatt Lowe asked that if SLA's have not been met could we get any of our money back.

C Taylor replied that we could ask but she was not sure how that would work.

M Gaynor remarked that given the other boroughs and districts are not availing themselves of the offer it sounded like it was diminishing service.

Cllr Sutton said that he had attended a number of Visit Herts meetings that took place in Dacorum but there was almost no representation of Dacorum's top features or places to go at all within the presentations. He added that there are resources within the borough and we should try and pool these to achieve more.

Cllr Howard mentioned that leaflets were a good idea and we should have them available, she added that we don't make the best use of our communications team.

Cllr Hicks said that he hoped that if we publicised Companies and venues they might actually put something back into this.

Cllr Sutton replied that we haven't gone down the sponsorship route, but that it is something that should be talked about across the borough and it needs investigating as we have a lot to shout about.

The work plan was discussed and it was agreed that items including Luton Airport would be discussed between J Doe and Cllr Anderson.

Cllr Howard concluded the meeting at 9pm.

# Agenda Item 9

Clerk: Sharon Burr

## Strategic Planning and Environment Overview & Scrutiny Committee: Work Programme 2018/19

***Scrutiny making a positive difference:*** Member led and independent, Overview & Scrutiny Committee promote service improvements, influence policy development & hold Executive to account for the benefit of the Community of Dacorum.

Meeting Date	Report Deadline	Items	Contact Details	Background information
22 January 2019	11 January 2019	Environmental Management System update	Assistant Director for Neighbourhood Delivery <a href="mailto:david.austin@dacorum.gov.uk">david.austin@dacorum.gov.uk</a>	To provide an update on the ISO 14001 accreditation.
		Luton Airport update	Assistant Director for Planning, Development & Regeneration <a href="mailto:james.doe@dacorum.gov.uk">james.doe@dacorum.gov.uk</a>	
		Station Gateway Supplementary Planning Document	Assistant Director for Planning, Development & Regeneration <a href="mailto:james.doe@dacorum.gov.uk">james.doe@dacorum.gov.uk</a>	
5 February 2019	25 January 2019	Joint Budget 2019-2020 <i>Ideally no further items to be added</i>	Group Manager for Financial Services <a href="mailto:Fiona.jump@dacorum.gov.uk">Fiona.jump@dacorum.gov.uk</a> Corporate Director for Finance and Operations <a href="mailto:james.deane@dacorum.gov.uk">james.deane@dacorum.gov.uk</a>	
12 March 2018	1 March 2019	Budget Monitoring Q3	Group Manager for Financial Services <a href="mailto:Fiona.jump@dacorum.gov.uk">Fiona.jump@dacorum.gov.uk</a> Assistant Director for Finance and Resources <a href="mailto:Nigel.howcutt@dacorum.gov.uk">Nigel.howcutt@dacorum.gov.uk</a>	To review and scrutinise quarterly performance
		Environmental Services Q3 Performance Report	Group Manager for Environmental Services <a href="mailto:craig.thorpe@dacorum.gov.uk">craig.thorpe@dacorum.gov.uk</a> Assistant Director for Neighbourhood Delivery <a href="mailto:david.austin@dacorum.gov.uk">david.austin@dacorum.gov.uk</a>	To review and scrutinise quarterly performance
		Environmental and Community Protection Q3 Performance Report	Group Manager for Environmental and Community Protection <a href="mailto:Emma.walker@dacorum.gov.uk">Emma.walker@dacorum.gov.uk</a> Assistant Director for Neighbourhood Delivery <a href="mailto:david.austin@dacorum.gov.uk">david.austin@dacorum.gov.uk</a>	To review and scrutinise quarterly performance
		Planning, Development and Regeneration Q3 Performance Report	Assistant Director for Planning, Development & Regeneration <a href="mailto:james.doe@dacorum.gov.uk">james.doe@dacorum.gov.uk</a>	To review and scrutinise quarterly performance
		CSG and Waste annual review	Group Manager for Environmental Services <a href="mailto:craig.thorpe@dacorum.gov.uk">craig.thorpe@dacorum.gov.uk</a> Assistant Director for	To present a summary of key achievements in the

		Neighbourhood Delivery <a href="mailto:david.austin@dacorum.gov.uk">david.austin@dacorum.gov.uk</a>	<i>Environmental Services areas.</i>
	Joint South West Herts plan	Assistant Director for Planning, Development & Regeneration <a href="mailto:james.doe@dacorum.gov.uk">james.doe@dacorum.gov.uk</a>	
	Car parking standards Supplementary Planning Document	Assistant Director for Planning, Development & Regeneration <a href="mailto:james.doe@dacorum.gov.uk">james.doe@dacorum.gov.uk</a>	
	Air quality action plan review	Assistant Director for Planning, Development & Regeneration <a href="mailto:james.doe@dacorum.gov.uk">james.doe@dacorum.gov.uk</a> Assistant Director for Neighbourhood Delivery <a href="mailto:david.austin@dacorum.gov.uk">david.austin@dacorum.gov.uk</a>	<i>To commence the process for the review of the Council's Air Quality Action Plan.</i>

**Future items:**

- Local Plan
- Water Gardens post project review (part 1 and 2) James Doe
- Building Control (Part 2)