

MENDIP DISTRICT COUNCIL

Minutes of the meeting of the Scrutiny Board held on Monday, 19 August 2019 in the Council Chamber at Mendip District Council, Shepton Mallet commencing at 6.30 pm.

SCRUTINY BOARD COUNCILLORS PRESENT:

Councillors Philip Ham (Chair), Garfield Kennedy (Deputy Chair), Alison Barkshire, Joshua Burr, John Clarke, Michael Dunk, Drew Gardner, John Greenhalgh, Chris Inchley, Liz Leyshon, Barbi Lund, Sam Phripp Lois Rogers and Nigel Woolcombe-Adams

SUBSTITUTES PRESENT:

Councillors Michael Gay, Nigel Hewitt-Cooper, Helen Kay,

OTHER COUNCILLORS PRESENT:

Councillor Tom Killen

OFFICERS:

Paul Deal	Section 151 Officer
James Ellis	Corporate Information & Intelligence Officer
Julie Jackson	Performance & Improvement Officer
Kelly Knight	Economic Development Officer
Donna Nolan	Deputy Chief Executive
Sara Skirton	Group Manager, Corporate Services
Ben Sugg	Committee Officer

ALSO PRESENT:

Matt Barrow Connecting Devon and Somerset Programme

Agenda Item	Subject	Actioned By
1	Chair's Announcements The Chair explained the procedures in the case of an emergency and asked that all mobile devices be switched to silent. Hearing aid users were asked to switch their devices to position 'T'.	
2	Apologies for Absence Apologies for absence had been received from Councillors. Councillor xx substituted for Councillor xx	
3	Declarations of Interest None.	

4	<p>Public Participation</p> <p>Items on the agenda:</p> <p>None.</p> <p>Items not on the agenda:</p> <p>None.</p>	
5	<p>Minutes of the Previous Meeting</p> <p>The minutes of the meeting of 17 June 2019 were agreed.</p>	Ben Sugg
6	<p>Spotlight on Connecting Devon and Somerset</p> <p>The purpose of this report was to update the Scrutiny Board on the current status of the Connecting Devon and Somerset programme (CDS), including rollout, performance management and contractual matters, and alternative provision for funding in rural areas, including voucher provision.</p> <p>Matt Barrow of CDS was invited to speak. He explained project and the reasons for delays in delivery of the project.</p> <p>In summary, in December 2016, CDS awarded contracts to deliver the next stage of the Superfast Broadband delivery. Gigaclear were successful in gaining the contract, with the faster Fibre to the Premises (FTTP) offer being a significant factor in their bid which was considered to offer better technical future-proofing. BD UK and CDS were responsible for ongoing contract review. Delivery by Gigaclear did occur in 2017/18, however, this did not include any areas within Mendip District Council boundaries and was significantly delayed due to issues with subcontractors, amongst other aspects of delivery.</p> <p>An announcement had been made at the end of 2018 that the Gigaclear contracts were in delay. The five main reasons for the delays incurred by Gigaclear and the situation with the contracts were:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Poor operational capacity and decision-making within Gigaclear • Lack of operator capacity • Slow deployment by contractors • Lack of detailed planning • Failure to redesign the build methodology 	Jenny Pitcher

	<p>RESOLVED</p> <p>To note the update provided by Connecting Devon and Somerset, with a further progress report anticipated in Autumn 2019 following further updates on delivery and performance management with the Phase II providers.</p>	
7	<p>Corporate Performance Management Report Quarter 1 2012/2020</p> <p>This report provided a summary of the high level actions and projects that supported the delivery of the 2017-2020 Corporate Strategy, Shape the District, as at Quarter 1 2019/20.</p> <p>Additionally, the report provides performance information in relation to Quarter 1 2019/20:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Corporate complaints and praise, • Freedom of Information (FOI) and General Data Protection Regulation (GDPR)/DP (Data Protection) requests • Finance • Human Resources (HR) statistics • 5 Councils Partnership Land Charges <p>A number of service performance indicators, for the following service areas, had been recommended by the Council's Senior Leadership Team to be included within this report: Housing, Planning and Growth, Neighbourhood Services and Community Health Services. Subject to Scrutiny Board's support and Cabinet's agreement, the intention was to report regularly on these indicators and to introduce further service performance indicators over time.</p> <p>It also included a summary of the annual Local Government Ombudsman letter 2018/19.</p> <p>Members are asked to:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Consider and comment on the information contained within the report. 2. Identify any issues or performance exceptions that the Board wish to highlight as a concern to Cabinet. 3. Where performance exceptions were identified consider whether the proposed actions are adequate to improve performance to the desired level and take actions to address concerns as appropriate. 	Julie Jackson

	<p>4. Consider the content, level of detail provided and the format of the report and make any recommendations for improvements.</p> <p>5. Consider the new service performance indicators submitted within this report and recommend to Cabinet that these form part of the quarterly performance reporting along with other service indicators as considered appropriate.</p> <p>RESOLVED</p> <p>That the report be noted and its recommendations approved.</p>	
<p>8</p>	<p>Updates from the Scrutiny Working Groups</p> <p>Verbal Reports were given by each of the Working Group Lead Convenors:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a. Policies and Strategies working group - Councillor Nigel Woolcombe-Adams b. Contracts working group - Councillor Garfield Kennedy c. Access working group - Councillor Philip Ham d. Deprivation working group - Councillor Chris Inchley <p>RESOLVED</p> <p>That the reports be noted.</p>	
<p>9</p>	<p>Forward Plans</p> <p>Mendip District Council Forward Plan</p> <p>The Forward Plan was noted.</p> <p>Scrutiny Board Forward Plan</p>	

	The Forward Plan was noted.	
10	Urgent Business None.	

The meeting finished at approximately pm.

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