

COUNCIL MEETING – 16 OCTOBER 2018

REPORT OF THE PARTNERSHIPS AND PERFORMANCE COMMITTEE

24 September 2018

Present: Councillors Graves (Chairman), V Waters (Vice-Chairman), Allebone, Aslam, Lloyd, and Maguire.

Also present: Miss K Denton and Mr A Piper (Assistant Directors), Mrs A Wilcox (Principal Environmental Health Manager), Mr M Pettitt (Environmental Health Officer), Ms M Drewery (Head of Resources, East Northamptonshire Council (ENC)), Mr W Andrew (ICT Improvement Advisor, ENC) and Mr S Whiteley (Electoral Services Team Leader).

(Councillors Griffiths and Skittrall attended as observers and Councillor Skittrall spoke on item 5. Ms R Patel Miller (Kier) and Mr N Caves (Ministry of Justice) attended for item 4; Mr P Marsden, and Ms J Smith (Entec Si) for item 5.)

1. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

RESOLVED to note that no apologies for absence were received.

2. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

RESOLVED to note that there were no declarations of interest.

3. CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES

RESOLVED that the minutes of the meeting held on 18 June 2018 be confirmed and signed.

4. PRESENTATION FROM MINISTRY OF JUSTICE

The annexed circulated report of the director was received to introduce the presentation from the Ministry of Justice. The chairman invited Mr N Caves and Ms R Patel Miller to deliver the presentation.

The presentation considered the experience of the Ministry of Justice with their most recent prison build at HMP Berwyn in North Wales, and how the lessons learnt on their previous project could impact on the delivery of HMP Wellingborough.

Mr Caves outlined the impact of a prison build on the local economy including employment opportunities, spending within the local area both with small and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs) to assist delivery of the project and in the night time economy from the prison workforce.

Ms Patel Miller went on to inform members of the social value commitments as part of the project, with developmental opportunities to upskill both new and experienced construction workers with practical and digital skillsets, and initiatives working with the local community, the local authority and the third sector.

Members thanked Mr Caves and Ms Patel Miller for attending and discussed the impact on the local economy. Members discussed how best local SMEs could exploit the opportunities provided by the build and expressed interest in working more closely with both the Ministry of Justice and Kier in light of supporting those closely resident to the site of HMP Wellingborough.

Ms Patel Miller explained that there were multiple events designed to engage with the local workforce and that there had already been multiple employment opportunities within the area for the project.

RESOLVED that the presentation be noted.

(Councillor Allebone left the meeting at 7:30pm and did not return).

5. ICT SHARED SERVICES UPDATE

The annexed circulated report of the director was received to provide an update to members on matters relating to the shared Information and Communication Technology (ICT) Service in terms of service delivery and the transformation programme.

One request to address the meeting had been received from Councillor Skittrall and was approved by the chairman.

The speaker addressed the committee and shared his thoughts over the transformation programme in the light of unitary discussions, expressing his concern that current development may end up being underutilised in any new authority.

The chairman invited Ms J Smith and Mr P Marsden from Entec Si to deliver a short presentation to the committee regarding the transformation programme.

Mr Marsden addressed the committee to outline the changes already undertaken as part of the transformation programme and the opportunities yet to be delivered in phases two and three of the project. This included adopting industry standards, bringing cost bases in line with other local authorities and some private sector operators, and a refresh of platforms – such as bringing in Windows 10 – to assist with modernisation.

Ms Smith provided further detail on what had been delivered as part of phase one and also outlined the work being undertaken with East Northamptonshire Council (ENC) to implement a new structure for the ICT Service.

Members discussed the content of the presentation and the report. They agreed that staffing appeared to be the biggest concern for the service and debated how recruitment and retention could be improved. The chairman then introduced Ms Drewery and Mr Andrew, who explained some of the challenges around recruitment, specifically in regard to competition from other public sector bodies. Ms Drewery outlined some potential alternative

approaches should the recruitment challenges continue and assured the committee that this was a top priority for the service.

Mr Andrew reiterated some of the detail from the Entec Si presentation, explaining that particularly the move to a remote data centre for both BCW and ENC provided a sound political situation for a future unitary authority as a remote data centre allowed for greater flexibility when deploying staff.

The chairman thanked the individuals for their presentations and responses to the questions from members of the committee.

It was proposed by Councillor Maguire and seconded by Councillor Aslam that a report be presented to the resources committee to highlight the concern from members about the level of investment being made in ICT infrastructure in light of unitary proposals. On being put to the vote this was carried.

RESOLVED that

- (i) the report be noted, and;
- (ii) a report be presented to resources committee to highlight the concern from members over the level of investment being made in ICT infrastructure in light of unitary proposals

6. ANNUAL HEALTH AND SAFETY PERFORMANCE REPORT – APRIL 2017 TO MARCH 2018

The annexed circulated report of the assistant director was received to provide members with a summary overview of corporate health and safety performance for the year April 2017 – March 2018.

Members discussed the report and agreed that the number of accidents were minor. They also queried if there were any cost implications to the council due to the accidents reported. Ms Wilcox explained that she was unaware of any civil claims and that any such claims would be dealt with via the council's insurers.

RESOLVED that the report be noted.

7. LOCAL GOVERNMENT AND SOCIAL CARE OMBUDSMAN: ANNUAL REVIEW LETTER 2018

The annexed circulated report of the assistant director was received to advise members on complaints and enquiries made to the Local Government and Social Care Ombudsman for the year ended 31 March 2018.

Members discussed the report and noted how positive the relatively low number of referrals was. Members also requested in future that the report includes the performance of neighbouring local authorities for comparison.

RESOLVED that the report be noted.

Chairman

The meeting closed at 8:25pm.