

WEST DEVON OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY COMMITTEE



West Devon
Borough
Council

Minutes of a meeting of the West Devon Overview and Scrutiny Committee held on Tuesday, 11th June, 2019 at 2.00 pm at the Chamber - Kilworthy Park

Present: **Councillors:**

Chairman Cllr Ewings
Vice Chairman Cllr Kimber

Cllr Moyse
Cllr Coulson
Cllr Bolton
Cllr Heyworth
Cllr Southcott
Cllr Wood

Cllr Musgrave
Cllr Daniel
Cllr Ratcliffe
Cllr Kemp
Cllr Spettigue
Cllr Ball

In attendance:

Councillors:

Cllr Mott
Cllr Edmonds
Cllr Jory
Cllr Crozier
Cllr Leech
Cllr Yelland

Cllr Cheadle
Cllr Pearce
Cllr Renders
Cllr Samuel
Cllr Moody

Officers:

Chief Executive
Group Manager – Customer First & Support Services
Head of Practice – Environmental Health
Commissioning Manager
Senior Specialist – Environmental Health
Senior Specialist – Democratic Services

1. **Apologies for Absence**

*O&S 1

Apologies for absence for this meeting were received from Cllr P J Ridgers.

2.

Confirmation of Minutes - Meeting 26 March 2019

*O&S 2

The minutes of the Meeting of the Overview and Scrutiny Committee held on 26 March 2019 were confirmed and signed by the Chairman as a true and correct record.

3.

Declarations of Interest

*O&S 3

Members and officers were invited to declare any interests in the items of business to be considered during the course of this meeting but there was none made.

4.

Public Forum

*O&S 4

There were no issues raised during the Public Forum session at this meeting.

5.

Hub Committee Forward Plan

*O&S 5

During consideration of the most recently published Hub Committee Forward Plan, the Committee made reference to:-

(a) the Coastal Concordat agenda item. In response to some questions, the Committee felt that it would be helpful to receive a formal update at its next meeting on the Coastal Concordat;

(b) the Community Housing Capital Financing agenda item. Members requested that they receive further information specifically in respect of Design Principles and Building Standards at the next Panel meeting on 9 July 2019.

6.

Customer Satisfaction Progress Report

O&S 6

The lead Hub Committee Member for Customer First presented a report that detailed the progress that had been made since April 2019 on improving customer satisfaction levels. The report also included recommended next steps to continue to improve the customer experience by further honing the Council website to pre-empt customer needs and manage expectations.

In discussion, reference was made to:-

(a) the 2019 Customer Satisfaction Survey. The Committee asked that the full results of the 2019 Survey be presented to its meeting on 19 November 2019;

(b) call volumes. Whilst some emphasis was given to waste and recycling, officers confirmed that there was a month on month

reduction in telephone calls being received by the Council across all of its service areas;

- (c) obtaining customer feedback. The overriding view of the Committee was that customer feedback was more important than locally generated performance measures in making improvements in customer satisfaction levels. In terms of feedback already gleaned, there were common themes around officers not keeping customers sufficiently informed and the need for the Council to develop a 'get it right first time' culture;
- (d) receiving quarterly updates. Whilst Members were supportive of the suggestion that they receive quarterly progress updates in the future, officers did assure the Committee that this could be revisited again should it be felt necessary to increase the frequency of reporting.

It was then:

RECOMMENDED

That the Hub Committee be **RECOMMENDED** to:

1. note and comment on the progress made to date in improving customer satisfaction (as detailed in section 3 of the agenda report presented to the Committee); and
2. endorse the next steps (as outlined in section 5 of the agenda report presented to the Committee).

7.

Food Service Plan Report

*O&S 7

The Committee considered a report that provided Members with the opportunity to agree and comment upon the Food Safety Service Plan 2019/20.

In discussion, the following points were raised:-

- (a) Members paid tribute to the team's performance in maintaining a 100% food safety inspection rate in each of the last two years. In so doing, the Committee was also informed that very few local authorities achieved this level of performance;
- (b) With regard to the emphasis being placed on public health, whilst Devon County Council (DCC) had primary responsibility, officers confirmed that the Borough Council was committed to working closely with DCC to make progress in this area.

It was then:

RESOLVED

That the Committee:

1. has had the opportunity to agree and comment upon the Food Safety Service Plan 2019/20; and
2. acknowledges the excellent performance of the Food Safety Team that is demonstrated by the achievement whereby 100% of food safety inspections had been carried out in 2018/19.

8.

Overview & Scrutiny Committee Work Programme

*O&S 8

The Committee considered its first draft version of its Work Programme for the 2019/20 Municipal Year. In discussion, it was agreed that:

- After the first Joint Local Plan update had been presented to the Committee meeting on 9 July 2019, then consideration of this matter on a quarterly basis would be sufficient;
- It would be timely for the Member Development Steering Group to review the effectiveness of the 2019 Member Induction Programme, with the Group findings then being presented to the Committee at its meeting on 19 November 2019;
- In advance of the 'Peer Challenge Action Plan – Progress Update' agenda item being considered at the Committee meeting on 9 July 2019, it was requested that a copy of the Peer Review Concluding Report and Action Plan should be circulated to all Members;
- Such was the significance of the issue, that the Committee requested that officers produce an update report on the 'A386 Transport Corridor / Tavistock Rail' for consideration at its next meeting on 9 July 2019. Members felt that, depending on the outcome of the debate on this agenda item, it may then be appropriate to invite Devon County Council representatives to attend a future Committee meeting.

The Meeting concluded at 3.30 pm

Signed by:

Chairman

