

Report of the Chairman on the work of the Overview and Scrutiny Committee

This report gives an overview of the main issues considered at the meeting held on 23 March 2021 and the Extraordinary meeting held on 7 April 2021.

23 March 2021

1. Revenue Monitoring Q3 (Oct - Dec)

- 1.1 The Committee considered the Revenue Monitoring report for Q3 (Oct - Dec).
- 1.2 The Committee raised a number of queries on specific items which officers responded to at the meeting or agreed to look into and provide a written answer.
- 1.3 Members asked if it would be possible for Cabinet to consider using the outstanding unallocated balance of the Project Delivery Fund as an allowance, or bidding scheme, for Councillors and community groups to bid for to support green initiatives in the borough and were pleased that the Finance Portfolio Holder, Councillor Buttar, was present and confirmed that he had noted the suggestion and would consider it.
- 1.4 The Committee agreed to note the forecast outturn for 2020/21 as at 31 December 2020.

2. Capital Monitoring Q3 (Oct-Dec)

- 2.1 The Committee considered the Capital Monitoring report for Q3 (Oct-Dec).
- 2.2 The Committee raised a number of queries on specific items which officers responded to at the meeting or agreed to look into and provide a written answer.
- 2.3 The Committee agreed to note the report.

3. River Thames Task Group update

- 3.1 The Committee considered a report on the work and achievements of the task group to date noting that the Council had completed several projects including providing a jetty for boat trips to support Staines' economy and upgraded lifesaving stations along the river. A variety of projects were ongoing with external assistance from the Thames Landscape Strategy.
- 3.2 The Committee noted that the manager of the Lammas café had done a lot of work in preparation for providing electric boats for residents and visitors to enjoy and was considering bringing back the crazy golf.
- 3.3 The Committee acknowledged that residents had also contributed to improving the riverscape, with one resident pulling trolleys from the river for the Council to collect, and that Councillor Gibson was in the process of arranging a joint river and land clean up and would share the details with the Committee in due course.

4. Task Groups – update and closure

- 4.1 The Committee noted that Councillor Noble was unable to attend the meeting and requested that a written update be provided on the work of the Climate Change task group and End of Life Celebration Centre task group should there be anything to report.
- 4.2 The Committee acknowledged that the Clean Streets task group had agreed to close as the Spelthorne Litter Pickers were doing a fantastic job and there was no need for duplication. The Committee expressed their thanks and gratitude to the Spelthorne Litter Pickers.
- 4.3 The Committee noted that if the Committee system was adopted by Council at its extraordinary meeting on 25 March 2021 any future work of the Task Groups would be subsumed into the relevant Committee, which would decide whether there is a need to set up a sub-committee or Task Group to look at a particular matter. The Chairman thanked members and officers for all their work and for providing the Overview and Scrutiny Committee with regular updates.

5. Work Programme

- 5.1 The Committee noted that as there were no further ordinary meetings scheduled there was no further work to be considered.

Extraordinary Meeting, 7 April 2021

1. Call in of Cabinet Decision - Exempt report - Transfer of properties from Spelthorne Borough Council to Knowle Green Estates Ltd.

- 1.1 The Overview and Scrutiny Committee considered the Cabinet Decision taken at its meeting on 24 March 2021.
- 1.2 Members asked several detailed questions and received responses from officers.
- 1.3 The Committee agreed that it was supportive of the Cabinet's decision, but recommended that the appropriate documentation must be in place going forward.
- 1.4 Members of the Committee concluded that it was important that the Cabinet take decisions that have been clearly defined and with the right policies in place. Cabinet and Committee papers need to be clear and concise and contain all relevant information, so members are able to look back and see that all the relevant facts had been considered.
- 1.5 The Committee resolved to recommend to Cabinet the following three recommendations:

Recommendation 1:

That Cabinet instructs officers to draw up the following documents:

- 1. A Term Sheet to set out the basis of developments and supporting policy. A Term sheet should be required for each Spelthorne Borough Council residential development and will be created prior to planning application submission and monitored and adjusted as required thereafter.

2. A policy for valuation and transfers of developments.
3. An interest rate policy.
4. Documentation of Knowle Green Estates (KGE) depreciation policy.

Recommendation 2:

A Term sheet template and draft policy documents are to be presented for approval by the Policy and Resources Committee and KGE Board as soon as possible and no later than the end of July 2021.

Recommendation 3:

That Cabinet confirms that no housing units will be sold unless a policy to do so is formally approved by the Council.

Councillor Vivienne Leighton

Chairman of the Overview and Scrutiny Committee

22 April 2021