

Recommendations and updates from other committees to Cabinet 10 November 2023



Joint Audit and Governance Committee

The committee met on 3 October to receive and note internal audit reports, the annual complaints report, and the half-yearly corporate risk report. The committee also considered the treasury management outturn report for 2022/23 and confirmed that it was satisfied that the council's treasury activities have been carried out in accordance with the treasury management strategy and policy. No recommendations were made to Cabinet.

The committee met again on 30 October to approve the statement of accounts for 2021/22. There were no recommendations to Cabinet.

Scrutiny Committee

The committee met on 2 November to discuss an update on planning enforcement performance, the financial outturn report for 2022/23, and the annual report on consultations and engagement. The committee welcomed and noted the reports. Although there were no direct recommendations to Cabinet, the committee made the following comments.

On the financial outturn report for 2022/23, committee members noted the council's improved financial position and asked the details of the Beacon's low income would be covered in December's options report to Scrutiny Committee.

On the planning enforcement performance update, the committee congratulated the enforcement team on the ongoing improvements. The committee:

- (i) was conscious of the caseload backlog and they wanted to see a reduction in cases still open;
- (ii) would like the enforcement team to challenge their Key Performance Indicators to reach beyond their current success;
- (iii) discussed biodiversity net-gain and would like to see this highlighted in enforcement work; and
- (iv) would like to see more communication to inform residents on improvements to the service, and to improve public image of enforcement with residents.

On the annual report on consultations and engagement, the committee commended officers for a well-written and clear report. The committee's comments to Cabinet are:

- (i) officers need to include their award nomination in the report;
- (ii) advertise/promote this report and include it in the data hub;
- (iii) there should be an assessment of the learning points, including a formal look back at lessons learned in future annual reports; and
- (iv) the committee would like to see all the platforms available for the team to use for consultations. The committee discussed the potential development of a framework of

criteria and benchmarking against other authorities, although mindful of team's capacity. For example, could criteria for 'what a successful consultation looks like' be developed between Cabinet and the Consultations team?

Democratic Services

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