

CPOR Annex – Scrutiny report

Date of Overview and Scrutiny Commission

31 August 2023

Having reviewed the report, the Commission would recommend to the Executive the following areas of focus, when reviewing the report:

- **Page 6 (Budget Summary)** That the Executive make enquires of Officers regarding how the Council is working with all its partners to alleviate the council's reported financial position.
That the Executive note that Officers have agreed to provide the Commission with a follow up briefing on the financial position at its November meeting, following a similar briefing to the Executive in October.
- **Page 10 (Value for money)**
 - 1.02.03 – Review Workforce and Organisational Development Strategy*
 - 1.02.06 – Deploy Recruitment and Retention Strategy*The Executive closely monitors the effectiveness of strategies aimed at reducing the use of agency staff in the Council.
- **Page 15 (Education and skills)**
 - 3.08.01 – Establish a culture of high expectations for all children*
 - 3.08.04 – Develop SEND improvement plan*
 - 3.08.07 – Co-produce a SEND strategy*
 - L205 % of EHCPs issued within 20 weeks statutory timeframe*
 - L206 Number of new EHCPs issued*The Commission believes Special Educational Needs and Disabilities is an important area and request the Executive should focus on that as part of their questioning of Officers.
- **Page 20 (Protecting and enhancing our environment)**
 - 5.02.01 - Green development of our waste collection*That the Executive confirm with Officers the current progress on the roll out of food recycling to flats. That the Executive enquire with Officers whether this project is on track.
- **Page 20 (Protecting and enhancing our environment)**
 - 5.03.01 - Implementation of parking bays*The Executive should pay particular attention to progress on the implementation of residential parking improvement scheme for 2023/24

Summary of key points of discussion

- O&S Commission members were keen for Councillors to use their elected accountability to ensure all partners were supporting them to achieve the Council's objectives and alleviate its financial position. In particular, the police, probation, schools, voluntary sector and health services were mentioned.
- O&S Commission members were keen to keep a close eye on the budget review as this underpinned all the Councils' work.
- L391 and L392 indicated issues with too many agency staff but appeared to conflict with 1.02.03 and 1.02.06 which had a green RAG rating. Councillors wanted to know if L391 and L392 would be reduced going forward if strategies in place to review workforce recruitment and retention were working? It was considered there should be a focus on quality and impact of strategies to reduce use of agency staff.
- O&S Commission members acknowledged the Special Educational Needs and Disabilities (SEND) Statement of Action included an improvement plan. However,

Councillors were keen to understand how this plan fitted with the Safety Valve programme and wanted to know if there were specific metrics that should be included to ensure the plan was correct, achievable and affordable and included different ways of working with partners, i.e. schools.

- 5.02.01 indicated 50% of 1,800 flats in the borough have been registered for food waste recycling as at end of Quarter 1. O&S Commission members were keen to know if this would be delivered on time as per the plan.
- O&S Commission members were keen for the implementation of parking bays in the borough to be progressed in a timely fashion.