

EAST HERTS COUNCIL

EXECUTIVE – 23 OCTOBER 2018

REPORT BY PERFORMANCE AUDIT AND GOVERNANCE SCRUTINY
COMMITTEE CHAIRMAN

PERFORMANCE AUDIT AND GOVERNANCE SCRUTINY COMMITTEE –
UPDATE

WARD(S) AFFECTED: All

Purpose/Summary of Report

- This report provides a summary of the comments and recommendations made following Performance, Audit and Governance Scrutiny Committee on 4 September 2018.

RECOMMENDATION:

(A)	That the Executive note the contents of the report.
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1.0 **Background**

1.1 Performance Audit and Governance Scrutiny Committee met on 4 September 2018 to consider the following items:

- **Annual Leisure Report**
- **Quarterly Corporate Health check – Quarter One, 2018-19**
- **Annual Treasury Review 2017/18 Outturn**
- **Shared Internal Audit Service – Annual Report**
- **Shared Internal Audit Service – Progress Report**
- **Performance Audit and Governance – Work Programme.**

2.0 **Annual Leisure Report**

- 2.1 The Committee considered a report which reviewed the Council's ten-year leisure contract with Sport and Leisure Management Limited.
- 2.2 Some Members were concerned with the decline in swimming generally and the number of reportable accidents and the Council's liability.
- 2.3 The Committee supported the recommendations as amended that:
- (A) the Annual Report be received;
 - (B) Officers seek information from Everyone Active about engagement with schools;
 - (C) Officers obtain a breakdown of reportable accidents; and
 - (D) Officers review the Council's risk register to ensure that sufficient safeguards were in place to protect the Council.

3.0 **Quarterly Corporate Healthcheck - Quarter One**

- 3.1 The Committee considered a report which reviewed the Capital and Revenue budgets and 33 key corporate indicators.
- 3.2 Some Members expressed concern about the provision of the IT service, targets for affordable housing, the number of homeless households needing clarification, and the absence of a target in relation to residual household waste. An update was also requested on the issue of Charrington's House in Bishop's Stortford.
- 3.3 The Committee supported the recommendations, as amended, that:
- (A) the projected revenue underspend of £16k be noted;
 - (B) the capital budget for 2018/19 of £4.69m be noted;
 - (C) the reported performance and actions for the period April

2018 – June 2018 be noted and the Annual Report be received;
(D) Officers provide Members with updated affordable housing figures achieved across the district;
(E) Officers provide information regarding residual household waste and targets; and
(F) Officers provide Members with an update in relation to Charrington's House.

4.0 **Annual Treasury Review 2017/18 Outturn**

4.1 The Committee considered a report on the Council's treasury management activities for 2016/17 including Prudential Indicators.

4.2 A Member sought further information on the Walkern Development windfall and how this would be spent. Members also asked Officers to write to all Members if the Council was impacted by the new CIPFA codes.

4.3 The Committee supported the recommendations as amended, that:

(A) the Treasury Management Activity and Prudential Indicators for 2017/18 be approved; and

(B) Officers provide Members with an update on the Walkern Development windfall.

5.0 **SIAS – Annual Report**

5.1 The Committee considered the Annual Report for 2017/18.

5.2 The Committee debated the Partner / Consultancy Budget and outturn figures and was provided with an explanation of the differential in outturn.

5.3 The Committee supported the recommendations as amended, that:

(A) the Shared Internal Audit Service Annual Report 2017/18 be

received; and

(B) Officers provide Members with a breakdown of Partner / Consultancy Budget Outturn figures.

6.0 **SIAS – Progress Report**

6.1 The Committee considered a progress report on the shared internal audit service.

6.2 Members debated the issue of cyber security and the difficulties within the IT Shared Service provision. It was noted that Officers would liaise with SIAS and IT to provide a report to PAG in November 2018. Some Members also queried whether tree surveying was included in the new Grounds Maintenance Contract and also the number of houses in multiple occupation.

6.3 The Committee supported the recommendations, as amended that:

(A) the Progress report be received;

(B) the status of critical and high priority recommendations be noted;

(C) Officers provide a report on cyber security; and

(D) Officers confirm whether tree surveying was included within the new Ground Maintenance Contract.

7.0 **PAG – Work Programme 2018/19**

7.1 The Committee considered a report on the proposed draft work programme.

7.2 The Committee discussed the vacant scrutiny officer's position and Members were advised that the Head of Service was investigating the possibility of a locum.

7.3 The Committee supported the recommendation that the draft work programme be approved.

Background Papers

None

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