

BEST VALUE COMMISSIONERS

Governance Board
Thursday 19 September 2024, 13:00 – 14:30
Council House, Room 125

Board Members

John Biggs, Co-chair and Commissioner
John Coughlan, Co-chair and Commissioner
Julia Lynch, Assistant Director, Legal
Marie Rosenthal, Interim City Solicitor & Monitoring Officer
Councillor John Cotton, Leader of the Labour Group
Councillor Robert Alden, Leader of the Conservative Group
Fiona Greenway, Director of Finance & S151 Officer
Councillor Robert Pocock, Labour Party
Chrissie Farrugia, DHLUC National Intervention Specialist
Councillor Roger Harmer, Leader of the Liberal Democrat Group
Pam Parkes, Commissioner
Rishi Shori, Acting Deputy Chief Executive

Apologies

Councillor Sharon Thompson
Joanne Roney (Rishi Shori substitute)
Councillor Roger Harmer (Councillor Morriam Jan substitute)
Chris Tambini

1 Welcome & Introductions

1.1 John Biggs introduced the meeting and welcomed attendees.

2 Previous Minutes

2.1 The previous minutes were agreed and approved.

3 Partnerships

- 3.1 Strategic Partnerships & Stabilisation slide deck was presented to the Board by Rishi Shori. Toolkit for staff and a similar document for guidance of Cabinet Members.
- 3.2 Toolkit to look at strategic relationships – understand baseline elementary building blocks. (RS)
- 3.3 JC addressed that the long-term interesting points within the presentation. Have the partners been focused on, additionally to the Council. How do we become a good partner in terms of BCC.
- 3.4 RS said that the work to build relationships with partners would need to be robust and give consideration to seasonal needs.
- 3.5 **ACTION:** Outcome focus around strategic outcomes over 10-20 years

4 Governance & Relationships Programme (including outstanding matters from Stabilisation Plan)

4.1 MR presented the slide deck to the Board.

The Commissioners:

Max Caller CBE, John Coughlan CBE, Chris Tambini, Pam Parkes FCIPD, Jackie Belton, Myron Hrycyk, Lord John Hutton, John Biggs.

- 4.2 Ward walks – programme of activity already exists to give better understanding to officers about what is happening in wards and the Member survey drove a move to look at what is happening in wards. The approach will endeavour to draw both strands together.
- 4.3 We need to take a view on what we can do with limited funds to assess what can be done.
- 4.4 JC we need to look at policing how we rate the points to hear what progress we are making to assess does it improve the Member/officer protocol?
- 4.5 **ACTION:** Member Development Officer to be employed beginning with the new Member Officer Protocol which was approved at Cabinet earlier this week.
- 4.6 **ACTION:** RA would like to be invited to the ward walks in his ward and asked that this be extended to all Members

5 Performance Management

- 5.1 Strengthening the Corporate Performance to ensure consistency and trust for Members. This is being done by monitoring and improving what we look at.
- 5.2 A wholesale refresh of the KPI's with targets and clear accountability. The number of corporate KPI's has been considerably reduced while still being quite high.
- 5.3 A new data set for inputting information has enabled greater efficiency in the data we are collecting and the corporate performance report has been improved. A greater consistency in the target setting approach has been applied.
- 5.4 A forward look at what is to come for the remaining months of this year
- 5.5 Commissioners were shocked that the Council didn't have a performance process in place as this would be informed and enable the framework to work.
- 5.6 Feedback was that this was a good start and that the trick would be to link this work to corporate risk register for example to be able use the information to have useful conversations. Currently rebuilding the Corporate Risk Register and officers are aware that the two must align.

6 Annual Governance Statements

- 6.1 This is a mandatory requirement for the Council and BCC has not carried one out for the last 4 years.
- 6.2 AGS must be built on evidence not opinion.

7 AOB

- 7.1 There was no further business