

Confident Council Scrutiny Committee

6.00 pm, 9 September 2024

Present at the meeting

Councillor E Smethurst (Chairman)	Councillor J Nicholson
Councillor M Callaghan (Vice-Chair)	Councillor H O'Neill
Councillor A Bullen	Councillor J Palmer
Councillor J Churton	Councillor J Prescott
Councillor P A Collins	Councillor M Tebbutt
Councillor L McStein	Councillor J P Watson
Councillor M Morgan	

1 Apologies for absence:

Councillor Molyneux.

2 Minutes:

The minutes of the meeting held on 11 March 2024 were agreed as a correct record and signed by the Chair.

3 Whipping declarations:

Government guidance expected Members of Scrutiny Committees not to act in accordance with party whipping and that, if they did, they were to declare it.

Resolved: There were no declarations.

4 Executive's Forward Plan of Key and Non-Key Decisions:

The Committee considered the Council's Forward Plan of forthcoming key and non-key decisions to be taken by the Cabinet, an Individual Portfolio Holder or delegated officers, in relation to the Resources Directorate.

Resolved: The Committee notes the forthcoming decisions, with no items being requested to be placed on a future agenda of the Committee.

5 Confident Council Work Plan 2024/25

The Committee considered a report of the Director - Finance and Legal, Tony Clarke, Director – Customer, Sonia Halliwell, and Director – Strategy and Innovation, James Winterbottom presented by the Programme Manager, Michelle Price, which proposed the Confident Council Scrutiny Committee work plan for the 2024/2025 municipal year.

Resolved: The Committee:-

- (1) thanks the officers for their report; and
- (2) approves the proposed work plan for the 2024/25 municipal year.

6 Performance Review

The Committee considered a report and presentation of the Assistant Director – Policy and Strategy, Lewis Greenwood, presented by the Joint Intelligence Manager, Sean Melling, which detailed the current position against a number of key

performance indicators across the Customer, Legal, Finance and Strategy and Innovation Services.

Some of the key areas included in the Committee's discussion were:

- child poverty;
- connections between Wigan Council and the health sector; and
- green spaces throughout the Borough.

The Joint Intelligence Manager informed the Committee that the 'Here for You' campaign had been introduced to support residents by signposting to services, organisations, resources and advice to help with benefits and welfare support to help families who needed it., and the family hub programmes provided a range of offers and a range of financial, social care and educational support.

The Assistant Director - Policy and Strategy informed Members of the Council's commitment over next 10 years, with child poverty being reported as part of the performance management framework. This enabled the relevant teams to focus on resources and shared partnerships, to ensure long lasting but positive impact on residents.

The Joint Intelligence Manager advised the Committee that the Adult Social Care team and Reablement team worked in partnership with hospitals and general practitioner services, to ensure that residents who had been admitted and required extra support would receive support packages.

The Assistant Director encouraged Members to continue to identify and sign post residents who may benefit from the services and support packages available, to the relevant Council services and teams.

Resolved: The Committee:-

- (1) thanks the officers for their report and presentation; and
- (2) approves the performance indicators across the directorates of Customer, Legal, Finance and Strategy and Innovation.

7 Cyber Security and the emergence of AI technology

The Committee considered a report and presentation of the Director – Strategy and Innovation, presented by the Chief Technology Officer, Dave Pearce, which outlined the Council's cyber strategy and cyber resilience programme and provided an update on the Council's emerging approach to the use of Artificial Intelligence (AI).

The Chief Technology Officer referred to the main points within the report.

Resolved: The Committee:-

- (1) thanks the officers for their report and presentation; and
- (2) approves the briefing on Cyber Security and endorses the work being undertaken in relation to the Council's cyber strategy and cyber resilience programme.

Chairman

The meeting concluded at 7.40 pm