

MINUTES OF SCRUTINY COMMITTEE

8 JANUARY 2025

PRESENT:

Members of the Committee:

Councillors Timms (Chair), S Edwards, Freeman, Hassell, Lawrence, New and Srivastava

Officers:

Aftab Razzaq (Chief Officer – Legal and Governance), Jon Illingworth (Chief Officer – Finance and Performance) and Linn Ashmore (Democratic Services Officer)

Also in attendance:

Councillor Mistry (Portfolio Holder for Finance and Performance, Legal and Governance)

20. MINUTES

The minutes of the meeting held on 19 November 2024 were approved and signed by the Chair.

21. ACTIONS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD ON 19 NOVEMBER 2024

The Committee received a report (Part 1 – agenda item 2) regarding an update on the actions arising from the minutes of the last meeting.

RESOLVED THAT – the report be noted.

22. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

There were no declarations of interest.

23. FEES AND CHARGES

The Committee received a report (Part 1 – agenda item 5) regarding the draft 2025/26 fees and charges proposal.

The Portfolio Holder for Finance and Performance, Legal and Governance was present and answered questions put by the committee.

The proposed fees and charges schedule was based on a comparison of the CPI at 1.7% in September with an additional 1% increase to 2.7% to take account of increases in salaries, goods and services. There were some exceptions to this including where fees were set by government, where variation was required in line with the Council's commercialisation principles, and fees and charges for the trade waste service that were currently commercially sensitive.

It was noted that fees relating to planning applications were controlled by Government. An announcement on planning fee increases was expected shortly and would come into effect from 1 April. Once the announcement had been received, the figures would be updated accordingly, and any increase would be applied from 1 April.

Fees relating to licensing matters were set on a cost recovery basis and were approved by Licensing and Safety Committee.

It was reported that a piece of work was being carried out on future car parking capacity and requirements. At present, there were no plans to increase car parking charges.

It was noted that the Rainsbrook Crematorium was performing well.

The Committee welcomed the level of information and transparency shared in the report and at the meeting, but decisions on future budgets was a matter for consideration at the appropriate meetings of Cabinet and Council.

RESOLVED THAT – the Portfolio Holder for Finance and Performance, Legal and Governance be thanked for attending the meeting.

24. DRAFT PEOPLE STRATEGY

The Committee was informed that following discussions with the Portfolio Holder for Partnerships and Wellbeing, it had been agreed that the report would be withdrawn to allow for further work to be completed on the draft strategy.

Some initial points raised by the committee included:

- Reference to the reasoning behind the introduction of the strategy should be included.
- The Rugby Blueprint and the corporate values need to be imbedded.
- The strategy should be closely aligned to the new Corporate Strategy and targets and performance indicators required strengthening.
- There was no mention of terms and conditions for staff.

RESOLVED THAT – the item be deferred to a future meeting.

25. OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY WORK PROGRAMME

The Committee received a report (Part 1 – agenda item 7) regarding the overview and scrutiny forward work programme.

The scheduled survey of all councillors to bring forward topics for scrutiny was key to planning ahead for the 2025/26 work programme.

A suggestion was made that the effect of the withdrawal of winter fuel payments on residents be considered.

RESOLVED THAT – the report be noted.

CHAIR