

## OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY COMMITTEE

19 December 2019

Present: Councillor A Grimston (Chair)  
Councillor J Dhindsa (Vice-Chair)  
Councillors D Allen-Williamson, R Martins, B Mauthoor,  
M Parker, G Saffery and M Turmaine

Also present: Councillor Richard Smith (Chairman of Watford Colosseum  
Task Group)  
Darren Harding (Senior Contract Manager, Veolia)  
Nick Graham (Contract Manager for Streets and Parks,  
Veolia)

Officers: Head of Leisure and Environmental Services  
Contract Manager - Parks and Streetcare  
Senior Democratic Services Officer

### 59 **Apologies for Absence/Committee Membership**

Apologies were received from Councillor Stiff.

### 60 **Disclosure of interests (if any)**

There were no disclosures of interest.

### 61 **Minutes**

The minutes of the meeting held on 28 November 2019 were submitted and signed.

### 62 **Other scrutiny meetings - minutes**

The scrutiny committee noted the minutes of the Finance Scrutiny Committee, which had taken place on 26 November 2019.

### 63 **Call-in**

It was noted that no key executive decisions had been called in.

## **End of year 6 waste, streets and parks contract with Veolia**

The committee received a presentation by Veolia with particular reference to improved street and environmental cleanliness, levels of litter, detritus, graffiti and fly posting. Copies of the presentation had been sent to the committee in advance of the meeting.

Members observed that the standard of service provided by Veolia had improved over time. It was commented that operatives were routinely attentive of residents' needs, anticipating difficulties and solving individual problems as they arose. They welcomed Veolia's actions to reinvigorate the company's staff recognition scheme which provided an opportunity to reward deserving individuals.

In a discussion about Veolia's gully cleaning and individual street deep cleans, scrutiny members requested additional information about the schedules for these activities. This would enable ward councillors to work with residents to help publicise the works and, on a practical level, assist with improving access for operatives. Further information was also requested about the barrow beat schedules.

The committee considered the work undertaken by Veolia with local schools to promote waste awareness and recycling to young people. It was requested that the list of local schools to be targeted during 2020 be shared with members. Veolia also agreed to provide information about its proposed schools environmental champion initiative.

The Contract Manager highlighted the "report it" on-line form which was accessed through the front page of the council's website. This provided a means to report routine problems, which were forwarded to Veolia directly for action. A planned update to the form would give individuals an update on progress. It was agreed that a link to the "report it" form would be sent to members.

There followed a short review of the protection equipment provided to operatives and the assessed risk of the work undertaken.

**RESOLVED –**

that the presentation be noted.

Action: Contract Manager – Parks and Streetcare

## **Executive Decision Progress Report**

The scrutiny committee received the 2019/20 Executive Decision Progress Report.

RESOLVED –

that the 2019/20 Executive Decision Progress report be noted.

**66 Hertfordshire County Council's Health Scrutiny Committee**

It was reported that Councillor Grimston, the Council's appointed representative to the County Council's Health Scrutiny Committee, had been unable to attend the last meeting on 17 December. It was agreed that a link to the papers for the meeting on Hertfordshire County Council's website would be circulated to committee members.

Action: Senior Democratic Services Officer

**67 Work programme**

The scrutiny committee received the updated draft of its work programme, incorporating the suggestions from the previous meetings.

It was agreed that a review of the recent closure of Watford Colosseum should be included on the work programme. This would be scheduled for the meeting on 27 February. In order to accommodate this new addition, it was agreed that the discussion on Revenues and Benefits should be brought forward to 6 February, which would complement discussions on the council's quarter 3 key performance indicators.

The scheduled discussion on sickness absence should be deferred to the 2020/21 work programme.

RESOLVED –

that the work programme be updated as discussed during the meeting.

Action: Senior Democratic Services Officer

**68 Exclusion of press and public**

RESOLVED –

that under Section 100A (4) of the Local Government Act 1972, the public and press be excluded from the meeting for the following items of business as it is

likely, in view of the nature of the business to be transacted or the nature of proceedings, that if members of the public were present during consideration of the item there would be disclosure to them of exempt information as defined in Section 100(1) Schedule 12A of the Act for the reasons stated in the reports.

69      **Watford Colosseum Task Group - final report**

The scrutiny committee received the report of the Democratic Services Officer and the Watford Colosseum Task Group presenting the task group's final report. Councillor Richard Smith, Chair of the Task Group, introduced the report and with the Head of Leisure and Environmental Services, responded to members' questions.

RESOLVED –

that the final report and recommendations of the Watford Colosseum Task Group be agreed.

70      **Dates of Next Meetings**

- 23 January 2020 (call-in only)
- 6 February 2020
- 27 February 2020

Chair

The Meeting started at 7.00 pm  
and finished at 8.00 pm