

**BUDGET AND
PERFORMANCE PANEL**

6.10 P.M.

2ND JULY 2019

PRESENT:- Councillors Keith Budden (Chair), Tim Dant, Roger Dennison, Tricia Heath (substitute for Councillor Jason Firth), Mandy King, Jack O'Dwyer-Henry, Katie Whearty, David Whitworth and Joanna Young

Apologies for Absence:

Councillor Jason Firth

Officers in attendance:

Daniel Bates	Director of Corporate Services
Jez Bebbington	Executive Support Manager
Stephen Metcalfe	Principal Democratic Support Officer

1 APPOINTMENT OF VICE-CHAIR

The Chair requested nominations for the position of Vice-Chair of the Budget and Performance Panel for the 2019/20 municipal year.

It was proposed by Councillor Tricia Heath and seconded by Councillor David Whitworth that Councillor Roger Dennison be appointed to the position. Subsequently, it was proposed by Councillor Tim Dant and seconded by Councillor Mandy King that Councillor Joanna Young be appointed to the position.

Upon being put to the vote, three members voted in favour of Councillor Roger Dennison and five members in favour of Councillor Joanne Young, whereupon the Chair declared Councillor Joanna Young appointed to the position.

Resolved:

That Councillor Joanna Young be appointed Vice-Chair of the Budget and Performance Panel for the 2019/20 municipal year.

2 MINUTES

The minutes of the meeting held on 19th February 2019 were signed by the Chairman as a correct record.

3 ITEMS OF URGENT BUSINESS AUTHORISED BY THE CHAIR

There were no items of urgent business.

4 DECLARATION OF INTERESTS

Councillor Mandy King declared an interest regarding the Panel's Work Programme (Minute 5 refers). The reason being that she works as a volunteer at the Dukes, Lancaster.

Councillor Joanna Young declared an interest regarding the Panel's Work Programme (Minute 5 refers). The reason being that she was a tenant in the Storey building, Lancaster.

Councillor Roger Dennison declared an interest regarding the Panel's Work Programme (Minute 5 refers). The reason being that he was a member of the Armed Forces Organising Committee.

5 WORK PROGRAMME REPORT

The Principal Democratic Support Officer presented a report that enabled the Panel to consider its Work Programme and a referral recommended by the Overview and Scrutiny Committee.

The Panel was advised of a number of items that were reported on a quarterly basis, namely financial monitoring, corporate performance monitoring and key performance measures.

An annual stakeholder meeting was arranged as part of the Council's budget consultation process, which was held in January each year, with other organisations invited to attend to present their budget proposals. Also considered on an annual basis was the Treasury Management Strategy.

It was reported that Cabinet Members could be invited to attend meetings to answer questions from the Panel.

The Panel was advised that the Overview and Scrutiny Committee would also be considering its Work Programme. Any items referred to the Panel would be reported as part of the Work Programme report.

It was reported that, at its meeting, held on 20th February 2019, the Overview and Scrutiny Committee had considered a report that detailed the current grant use for city centre arts provision. After considering this issue, the Committee recommended this Panel:

- To consider a strategic review of arts spend and Service Level Agreements for the management and governance of grants to support arts provision in the district. Documentation to be provided to include the accounts of organisations when available.
- To receive and consider the end of year activity report forms on at least an annual basis.

The Panel was asked to consider adding this item to its Work Programme. Questions and queries were raised at the meeting regarding:

- commercial operations
- income/return on capital for each venture,

- monitoring the Council's priorities and objectives,
- easy to follow reporting formats,
- reports on rental properties including vacancies voids and rent arrears,
- reporting by exception,
- impact of universal credit and work with the CAB and Signposts,
- review of the Council's Procurement Strategy and in particular being based around wealth building locally and considering qualitative criteria and duty for best value and working with other organisations and businesses that may already have been working on this issue in the local area,
- use of the Ashton Hall,
- looking at Council assets particularly regarding rental income,
- MTFS,
- small grants,
- SLAs,
- reviewing rationale for funding,
- capital projects and Capital Strategy Group,
- community wealth building and financial and social values,
- invest to save,
- waste bin widgets,
- a wild flowers grassland survey,
- and access and questioning of monitoring information data.

It was noted that a list of Council assets would be circulated to the Panel.

It was moved by Councillor Tim Dant and seconded by Councillor Roger Dennison:-

"That the Work Programme report and appendix to the report be accepted, together with the referral recommendations from the Overview and Scrutiny Committee, subject to the words "when available" being deleted from the end of the first bullet point recommendation."

Upon being put to the vote, the Chair declared the proposition unanimously carried.

Resolved:

- (1) That the Work Programme report and appendix be accepted.
- (2) That the Panel considers a strategic review of arts spend and Service Level Agreements for the management and governance of grants to support arts provision in the district. Documentation to be provided to include the accounts of organisations.
- (3) That the Panel receives and considers the end of year activity report forms on at least an annual basis.

Chair

(The meeting ended at 7.10 p.m.)

**Any queries regarding these Minutes, please contact
Stephen Metcalfe, Democratic Services - telephone 01524 582073 or email
sjmetcalfe@lancaster.gov.uk**