

Overview and Scrutiny Management Committee: Holding the Executive to Account

Scrutiny Monitoring – 10 August 2023

Date	Portfolio	Title	Action proposed	Action Taken	Progress Status
13/07/23	Finance & Change	Medium Term Financial Strategy Update	1) That the monthly budget report that is being prepared for Cabinet is shared with the OSMC Chair.	Response to be provided in advance of the 10 August OSMC meeting	
			2) That, whilst recognising the requirement for timely action, the Executive commits to ensuring transparency and openness in the budget decision making process moving forward.	Response to be provided in advance of the 10 August OSMC meeting	
			3) That this Committee coordinates activity with the Governance Committee to ensure effective oversight and reduce unnecessary duplication.	Agreed. Whilst recognising the distinctive roles played by Audit and Scrutiny, regular dialogue will be scheduled between the Chair of the Governance Committee and the Chair of the OSMC to support a co-ordinated approach.	
			4) That, to support member oversight, local government finance training is offered to all councillors, and workshops are organised for members to discuss ongoing financial issues.	Response to be provided in advance of the 10 August OSMC meeting	
			5) That a visit is undertaken by the Executive to Portsmouth City Council to understand how they have managed to maintain spending levels at an affordable level.	Response to be provided in advance of the 10 August OSMC meeting	
			6) That the revised CIPFA report is shared with the Committee when it is available.	Response to be provided in advance of the 10 August OSMC meeting	
			7) That, to increase the sum of money owed to the Authority that is paid on time and in full, the Executive reviews the	Response to be provided in advance of the 10 August OSMC meeting	

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			Council's charging, collection and debt management processes.		
			8) That the Executive reviews the Council's charging policy and that the review is informed by comparisons with Southampton's statistical neighbour authorities.	Response to be provided in advance of the 10 August OSMC meeting	
			9) That, to support the funding of essential transformation activity, the Executive ensures that the Council's Asset Register is kept up to date to enable the efficient disposal of the most appropriate assets.	Response to be provided in advance of the 10 August OSMC meeting	
			10) That, reflecting the significant increase in the number of people employed by the City Council over recent years, the Committee is provided with a breakdown of staff numbers, by service area, over the past 5+ years, alongside relevant supporting information.	Response to be provided in advance of the 10 August OSMC meeting	
			11) That, to improve outcomes and value from procurement activity, consideration is given to: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Identifying opportunities to streamline the Council's procurement processes. • Extracting additional value by combining similar individual capital project procurement activity into larger, single tender processes. • Merging the Council's two procurement teams into a single entity. 	Response to be provided in advance of the 10 August OSMC meeting	

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			12) That the Deputy Leader circulates to the Committee the Labour Party's 2023 Southampton City Council election manifesto to develop understanding of the Administration's priorities.	Response to be provided in advance of the 10 August OSMC meeting	
13/07/23	Environment & Transport	Accessible Southampton Inquiry - Update	1) That, to raise awareness amongst disabled people in Southampton, the Executive considers how the Council communicates the changes that have been made, or are planned, to enhance the accessibility of Southampton.	A dedicated webpage has been provided that highlights the Accessibility Forum and Micromobility Equalities Forum here: https://www.southampton.gov.uk/travel-transport/local-transport-plan/the-accessibility-forum/	
			2) That, in lieu of an Access Officer being employed, consideration is given by the Executive to nominating an Accessibility Champion to promote and co-ordinate the Council's accessibility ambitions.	This role of Accessibility Champion is currently being carried out by the Sustainable Transport Lead (Communities) Officer due to limited budget to provide a corporate wide resource.	
			3) That the Executive reviews the Outdoor Sports Centre investment project with a view to identifying funding to support the drive to improve the accessibility of Southampton's built environment.	Whilst the OSMC recommendation to create a new post focusing on accessibility is a positive one to provide advice and guidance on all projects across the council, rather than fund this role from an individual scheme it should be explored as to whether the costs could be shared across all projects prorate avoiding any potential conflict with grant terms and conditions. It may not meet the requirements for capital spend and clearly it is a sensitive time to create any new posts whilst the Council is looking to significantly reduce cost and it would be subject to the cost control panel looking at affordability and the organisational development board	
			4) That, in recognition of the limited detail contained within the briefing paper on this issue, the Scrutiny Manager contacts the responsible officer and	The Council has developed and written an accessible information standard with input from a range of internal teams – the initial draft went to Spectrum CIC who provided helpful feedback and	

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			requests an update on the approved inquiry recommendations that relate to the Council's communications and information standards.	suggestions which were taken on before the document was finalised in December 2022. The standard is available for employees to support communications and activities to be as accessible as possible.	