



Minutes of the Overview and Scrutiny Board

14 December 2016

-: Present :-

Councillor Lewis (Chairman)

Councillors Barnby, Bye, Stockman (Vice-Chair), Stocks, Tolchard, Doggett, Robson and Thomas (D)

(Also in attendance: Councillors Brooks, Carter, Darling (S), Excell, Haddock, King, Mills, Morey, Parrott, Stringer and Thomas (J))

46. Apologies

It was reported that, in accordance with the wishes of the Conservative Group, the membership of the Board had been amended to include Councillors Robson and Thomas (D) in place of Councillors Bent and Tyerman.

An apology for absence was also received from the Mayor who was represented by the Deputy Mayor, Councillor Mills.

47. Bylaws Homeless People and Begging

The Board considered the details of a call-in by five Members of the Council of the decision of the Mayor to request the Assistant Director – Community and Customer Services to commission a consultation exercise to assess opinion on the further actions the Council could take:

- to introduce bylaws or Public Spaces Protection Orders to address the problem of rough sleeping on the seafront and in town centres; and
- to provide support to, and safeguarding of, individuals with a genuine rough sleeping/street homelessness need.

In addressing the Board, the Call-in Promoter highlighted that he believed that the Mayor's decision was contrary to the Council's Policy Framework. He made reference to the Corporate Plan which included the principle that the Council's reducing resources should be used to best effect.

Members of the public who were both in favour of and against the Mayor's decision addressed the Board. In addition a statement on behalf of Torbay PATH was read out.

The Deputy Mayor and other members of the Executive were invited to respond to the points in the call-in and to the questions raised by members of the Board.

Members of the Board indicated that they were minded to agree that the decision was contrary to the Council's Budget and Policy Framework and, at that point, the Monitoring Officer and Chief Financial Officer provided advice to the Board.

Resolved: that, having listened to the advice of the Monitoring Officer and the Chief Financial Officer, the Board is of the view that the Mayor's decision is contrary to the Policy Framework as it does believe that it makes best effect of the Council's reducing resources and therefore the matter is referred to the Council.

48. Potential Helipad and Light Rail System for Torbay

The Board considered the details of a call-in by thirteen Members of the Council of the decision of the Mayor to, amongst other things, request the Assistant Director – Corporate and Business Services to consult on the principle of establishing a helipad facility in Torbay and on the long term economic benefits of a light railway system to Brixham.

In addressing the Board, the Call-in Promoter highlighted that he believed that the Mayor's decision was contrary to the Council's Policy Framework. He made reference to the Corporate Plan which included the principle that the Council's reducing resources should be used to best effect.

Members of the public who were both in favour of the Mayor's decision addressed the Board.

The Deputy Mayor and other members of the Executive were invited to respond to the points in the call-in and to the questions raised by members of the Board.

Members of the Board indicated that they were minded to agree that the decision was contrary to the Council's Budget and Policy Framework and, at that point, the Monitoring Officer and Chief Financial Officer provided advice to the Board.

Resolved: that, having listened to the advice of the Monitoring Officer and the Chief Financial Officer, the Board is of the view that the Mayor's decision is contrary to the Policy Framework as it does believe that it makes best effect of the Council's reducing resources and therefore the matter is referred to the Council.

Chairman
