

Minutes of the meeting of the Corporate Policy and Scrutiny Committee, held in Committee Room 1 County Hall, Chelmsford, CM1 1QH on Tuesday 26 June 2018

Present

Cllr M Mackrory (Chairman)
Cllr J Beavis
Cllr M Garnett
Cllr J Moran
Cllr J Aldridge (substitute for Cllr V Metcalfe)
Cllr A Turrell
Cllr I Henderson (Vice Chairman)
Cllr S Hillier (substitute for Cllr A Sheldon)
Cllr R Pratt
Cllr M Buckley
Cllr W Schmitt
Cllr J Abbott

Apologies

Cllr V Metcalfe
Cllr A Sheldon
Cllr M Steptoe
Cllr M Hardware

Richard Buttress, Member Enquiries Manager was in support of the meeting.

1. Membership, Apologies and Declarations

Apologies were received from Cllr V Metcalfe, Cllr A Sheldon, Cllr M Steptoe and Cllr M Hardware.

No declarations of interests were received.

2. Minutes of previous meeting

The minutes of the meeting held on Tuesday 29 May 2018 were approved and signed by the Chairman, pending two alterations which have now been made.

3. Questions from the public

None received.

4. Grants update and criteria

Members received report CSC/30/18, which provided information on the grants Essex County Council (ECC) distributes to organisations.

Cllr Mackrory welcomed Kirsty O'Callaghan, Head of Strengthening Communities to the meeting.

Kirsty O'Callaghan introduced the item and made the following comments:

- Relatively new to the organisation – was appointed on a permanent basis towards the end of 2017
- Starting to look at the grants programme to assess whether it is impactful, efficient and funding the right organisations
- ECC spends over £10.5m a year on grants and funds 262 organisations
- Is having conversations with Adults and Children’s social care teams in order to get the most out of the money available
- Recently signed the Faith Covenant which has opened the Community Initiatives Fund (CIF) to faith groups
- Is looking to involve citizens in the decision making around grants and is working with Cllr Lissimore to amalgamate the grants programme.

Upon conclusion of the presentation, Members made various contributions and received responses:

- ECC is looking to invest differently in the Essex Lottery – investment is needed in the programme and organisation that run alongside it
- Spacehive now have a clear trajectory of what is expected of them in the future and needs a checking process to eliminate the risk of duplication
- The criteria for the funding of programmes that are more generic needs tightening up
- Public Service Reform Unit (PSRU) still exists but has been renamed in the organisation redesign
- The term ‘wicked’ issues was not the appropriate word for a report of this nature – recommendation made to change this to ‘challenging’
- The aim is to align the grants to make sure they are investing in the right areas
- Would like to see Parish Councils with a high amount of reserves work with ECC to make best use of the funds
- Parish Councils reserves are audited and ECC will make sure only the relevant questions are asked in terms of what is happening with that money
- The Communities and Culture Board is chaired by Cllr Lissimore, with the following officers also attending:
 - Dominic Collins, Director for Economic Growth and Localities
 - Mike Gogarty, Director for Wellbeing, Public Health and Communities
 - Tourism representatives
 - Comms representatives
 - Finance representatives
- Agreed with the suggestion of having one online tool where people can find out which grant is relevant for them and what is needed to be able to apply for it
- The quadrant based working groups (South, North, Mid, West) now have a communities plan so they can articulate their needs accordingly.

- Is aware that Community Speedwatch is funded by Essex Police and that 'Area Forums' no longer exist. The paper will be updated to reflect this.

5. Task and Finish Group – ECC's Resourcing Contract

Cllr Buckley spoke briefly around the recommendations made by the group. The report will be circulated to all members of the committee, with comments to be made to Richard Buttress and Cllr M Buckley by close of business Monday 2 July 2018. Once agreed, the report will be published and sent to the relevant Cabinet Member for a response.

Cllr Mackrory thanked the group for the effort they have put into this report.

6. Work Programme

An update on the committee's work programme was provided. Cllr Mackrory asked committee members to think about future agenda items and to make Richard Buttress aware.

7. Date of next meeting

To note that the next meeting of the Corporate Policy and Scrutiny Committee will be held on Tuesday 31 July 2018 at 10:30am.

8. Urgent business

None received.

9. Urgent exempt business

None received.

The meeting concluded at 11:41am.

Chairman