

Governance Board

Wednesday 20<sup>th</sup> March 2024, 2:00pm – 4:00pm

Council House

John Coughlan, Commissioner and Co-chair  
John Biggs, Political Advisor to Commissioner team and Co-chair  
Max Caller, Lead Commissioner  
Pan Parkers, Commissioner  
Lord John Hutton, Political Advisor to Commissioner team  
Tom Smith, Chief of Staff  
Marie Rosenthal, Interim Monitoring Officer  
Councillor John Cotton, Leader  
Councillor Sharon Thompson, Deputy Leader  
Councillor Robert Alden, Leader of Conservative Group  
Councillor Roger Harmer, Leader of Liberal Democrat Group  
Graeme Betts, Interim Chief Executive  
Rishi Shori, Director of Intervention Response  
Amerdip Kaur, Head of Special Projects, Improvement and Delivery  
Julia Lynch, Assistant Director

The Commissioners:

Max Caller, John Coughlan, John Biggs, Pan Parkers, Lord John Hutton, Tom Smith, Marie Rosenthal, John Cotton, Sharon Thompson, Robert Alden, Roger Harmer, Graeme Betts, Rishi Shori, Amerdip Kaur, Julia Lynch

- 2.1 Legal and Governance are progressing the work of the Stabilisation plan which will feed into the Board.
- 2.2 There are over 50 activities in Scrutiny at present, addressing the initial 13 recommendations for the Improvement and Recovery Plan (IRP) with actions being monitored. The purpose of this Board is to steer this activity and address the current officer Code of Conduct which has not yet been amended through the stabilisation plan.
- 2.3 Marie Rosenthal (Interim Monitoring Officer) advised that the Co-chairs may wish to keep the Terms of Reference under review as it could be beneficial to involve Katy Fox (Director of People Services).
- 2.4 Marie Rosenthal (Interim Monitoring Officer) advised that she and Max Caller (Lead Commissioner) had a meeting with the Chair of the Standards Committee last week and recognise that there will be a relationship between this board and Standards Committee.
- 2.5 Marie Rosenthal (Interim Monitoring Officer) advised that this Board should also aim to work closely with group whips and it may be useful to invite them to some future meetings.
- 2.6 Councillor Robert Alden (Leader of Conservative Group) considered that it may be useful to add members of the Scrutiny Committee into the TOR at some point and to invite them to future meetings.
- 2.7 Councillor John Cotton (Leader) recognised that it the Board should also work to improve both officer/officer relationships alongside improving member/officer relationships.
- 2.8 Councillor Sharon Thompson (Deputy Leader) advised that she is concerned that this Board should keep a close eye on methodology involved in the work to engage the workforce.
- 2.9 Marie Rosenthal (Interim Monitoring Officer) advised that the work carried out by this Board should be done at pace because of its link with the 6 months Stabilisation Plan.
- 2.10 John Biggs (Political Advisor to Commissioner team and Co-chair) recognised that it

- 3.3 There are 6 activities which are “at risk” and 1 action which is “off-track”. The “off track” action relates to activity three which needs to gather pace.
- 3.4 Pam Parkes (Commissioner) asked if the Corporate Plan is a focus for governance within the Council.
- 3.5 Marie Rosenthal (Interim Monitoring Officer) responded that one of the findings is that the Council needs a Corporate Plan.
- 3.6 Councillor Roger Harmer (Leader of Liberal Democrat Group) noted that member training is required in the context of this plan. He noted that as a member he receives numerous invitations to attend training but no guidance on which training is actually relevant to their roles.
- 3.7 Pam Parkes (Commissioner) queried again how progress will be monitored through

The Commissioners:

Malcolm Galloway CBE, John Gough, Jon Gifford, Brian Gifford, Pam Parkes, FCJPD, Lord John Birt, Lord John Birt, Lord John Birt