



SCRUTINY COMMISSION – 16 NOVEMBER 2016

ANNUAL PERFORMANCE REPORT 2015/16

DRAFT MINUTE EXTRACT

The Commission considered a Cabinet report of the Chief Executive concerning the County Council's Annual Performance Report 2015/16 which would be considered at its meeting on 23 November. A copy of the report, marked "Agenda Item 9" is filed with these minutes.

In support of the report, officers took members through a slide deck which set out some additional statistics and charts around the Council's performance. A copy of the slide deck is filed with these minutes.

Arising from a discussion, the following points were noted:

- It was important that the Council's strong delivery in the face of significant budget cuts did not undermine the "Fairer Funding" campaign that was being put to the Government. Equally, it was felt that there should be an increased emphasis in the Report on the service reduction context and the "managed decline" process which the Council was now operating within. Particularly Part A of the Report in its current form was felt to present a largely positive picture in the face of reduced funding and service reductions and this might inhibit the Council's ability to lobby for financial parity with similar sized authorities. It was intended to imminently hold a separate session for all members of the Council on the Fairer Funding campaign;
- It was suggested that there should be a focus on "spending need per dwelling" as well as "spend per dwelling";
- Whilst being a low spending authority was generally viewed by the Chartered Institute of Public Finance and Accountancy as being a positive in terms of efficiency, it was noted that this could be looked at negatively when funding reduced below a minimum threshold for effective service delivery. It was considered that Leicestershire's low funding meant it was in danger of going below that threshold. Further thought would be given to the way in which this message was presented in future Annual Performance Reports;
- A view was expressed that the Report focused heavily on future transport projects which were viewed by some members as being irrelevant to a review of performance over the past year. In response, it was noted that the Department had felt that it was important to provide this context within the Report;

- It was suggested that on the indicator “average speed on roads” might be better measured in terms of “time lost to congestion”, which was generally viewed as being a more significant factor for the public. Officers agreed to take this suggestion back to the Environment and Transport Department for further consideration. It was noted that congestion was a performance measure currently taken between the hours of 7.00am and 10.00am;
- A view was expressed that the majority of people in the County were affected by the condition and performance of the road network and that this should be reflected in future priorities;
- With an increased national focus on climate change, it was suggested that the Council should remain fully committed to reducing its carbon footprint. Whilst it was noted that the Council had generally made good progress on this issue, it was suggested that extra efforts could be made to ensure that the lights at County Hall were switched off when not in use.

RESOLVED:

That the comments of the Commission be forwarded to the Cabinet for consideration at its meeting on 23 November.