

**Cannock Chase Council**  
**Minutes of the Meeting of the**  
**Financially Resilient Council Scrutiny Committee**  
**Held on Wednesday 23 June 2021 at 4:00pm**  
**In the Council Chamber, Civic Centre, Cannock**  
**Part 1**

PRESENT: Councillors

Hughes, R.J. (Chairman)  
Adamson, G. (Vice-Chairman)

Davis, Mrs. M.A.	Smith, C.D.
Jones, P.G.C.	Startin, P.D.
Kruskonjic, P.	Sutton, Mrs. H.M.
McMahon, J.B.	Woodhead, P.E.
Muckley, A.M.	

**1. Apologies**

None.

**2. Declarations of Interest of Members in Contracts and Other Matters and Restrictions on Voting by Members and Party Whip Declarations**

No other declarations of interests or party whip declarations were received.

**3. Minutes**

The Minutes of the Corporate Scrutiny Committee 2 March 2021 were noted.

**4. Introduction to the Role of the Financially Resilient Council Scrutiny Committee**

The Committee received a presentation from the Head of Governance and Corporate Services that covered the following:

- Support for the Committee
- Background
- The Purpose of Scrutiny
- The Committee's Role and Remit
- Work Programme
- Undertaking a Review

*(Councillor Adamson arrived during the presentation of this item.)*

## **5. End of Year PDP & Recovery Performance Information**

Consideration was given to the Report of the Head of Governance and Corporate Services (Item 5.1 – 5.28 of the Official Minutes of the Council).

The Head of Governance and Corporate Services advised that 65% of actions in the Priority Delivery Plans (PDPs) had been delivered in full and 15% were in progress. In respect of the Recovery Plans, 70% of actions had been completed, and 25% were in progress. Delivery of some actions had been impacted by the need for the Council to move between response and recovery phases during the pandemic lockdown periods.

A Member queried that for those actions due to be completed in quarter 1 of 2021/22, were any likely to suffer from further slippage in completion. The Head of Governance and Corporate Services advised that the quarter 1 report was not yet complete, so it was hard to know at this stage the likely position. Members were advised the report before the Committee today was based on the old Corporate Plan, whereas the quarter 1 report would reflect the new Corporate Plan.

Another Member commented positively about the number of actions that had been achieved given the circumstances of the last 15 months. The Head of Governance and Corporate Services advised that Leadership Team took a view early in the pandemic about what work was planned and what realistically could be achieved. From that, Cabinet approval was given to defer actions where possible and re-prioritise workloads, such as for the payments of business support grants.

## **6. Financially Resilient Council Scrutiny Committee Work Programme 2021-22**

Consideration was given to the Report of the Head of Governance and Corporate Services (Item 6.1 – 6.21 of the Official Minutes of the Council).

The Head of Governance and Corporate Services advised the proposed work programme (appendix 5 of the report) was based on previously suggested items and issues that had risen because of the coronavirus pandemic. It was recommended that the Committee select no more than 2 items to scrutinise during the year.

The Chairman noted that the items in respect of hybrid working for employees and the Council's assets had been suggested due to associated issues being referenced in the alternative budget presented to Council in February 2021.

The Committee then discussed the proposed work programme, putting forward the following topics for consideration:

- Council's response to the coronavirus pandemic – incorporating matters such as emergency planning and business continuity, and seeking the views of the external partners, the public and local community etc.
- Council's partnership working arrangements, particularly how it engaged with different partners during the pandemic and how that work could be built on going forward.
- Staff morale during the pandemic – to include hybrid working arrangements.

**Resolved:**

That the following review topics be agreed for the Committee's 2021/22 work programme, along with the membership of each review group:

- (A) Review of Hybrid Working Arrangements (staff morale during the pandemic to be included as part of this review)

Membership: Councillors Davis, Kruskonjic, McMahon, Smith, Sutton, Woodhead.

- (B) Review of the Council's Assets

Membership: Councillors Adamson, Hughes, P. Jones, Muckley and Startin.

The meeting closed at 4:57 p.m.

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CHAIRMAN