

Meeting Date: 9 January 2018

Public/Private*: Public

Title: **Business and Transformation Scrutiny - Councillor Jessica Riddle**

Works Programme

At this meeting in the discussion of the works programme it was reported that the Scrutiny Chairs Group is following our lead in having resolutions made by panels tracked, thereby making responses and outcomes quite clear.

The Business and Transformation Scrutiny Panel is also joining with the Health and Wellbeing Scrutiny Panel at the end of January 2018 to scrutinise the Sands Centre redevelopment.

Budget Papers

The panel then moved on to discuss the budget papers, taking into account the comments made by the other scrutiny panels. There were many questions asked on the revenue estimates. There is still uncertainty on how the changes to Universal Credit would affect the Housing Benefit service therefore the Welfare Reform Reserve would remain in the budget figures. Also, in 2021, Land Charges would be transferred to the land registry so again there is some doubt about what services would remain with the city council.

There was considerable interest in the Sands Centre redevelopment as I have written earlier but this will be subject to additional scrutiny in January.

In the discussion on review of charges the panel supported the Economic Growth Scrutiny Panel's recommendation that the reduction in long stay charges in the Civic Centre be dropped.

There was interest in how the Homelife charges were being altered. The budget and action plan for DFGs will also be kept under close scrutiny.

Community Asset Transfer Policy

The draft Community Asset Transfer policy is particularly interesting. The Task and Finish group looked at a variety of policies from Bristol to Cumbria, and worked with the officers to produce a clear and concise policy with supporting documentation. It is hoped that by having a clear framework there would be an increase in interest from community groups.

Sickness Absence

The sickness absence again showed a decrease in levels. The members noted the varied initiatives and training that were designed to improve staff health and wellbeing.

I would like to thank the attending officers for their patience and informed responses to the many questions coming from the panel. I also thank the panel members for their hard work and enthusiasm.

I hope everyone had a Happy Christmas and a Good New Year.

Cllr Jessica Riddle
Chairman