

Meeting Date: 5th January 2021

Public/Private*: Public

Title: **Business & Transformation Scrutiny Panel Chairman's Report –
Councillor James Bainbridge**

Business and Transformation Panel meeting on the 15th October 2020

As members will be aware from previous updates, there has been a Task and Finish Group established to work alongside Human Resources Officers, who were revising the Attendance Management Policy of the Council.

Members will recall that even before Covid-19, issues appertaining to absence and attendance featured regularly within the discussions of the Panel. As a consequence the Task and Finish Group in this area assisted productively in analysing and questioning the new Policy as it took shape. We received a final formal update on the Policy (and as importantly the roll out process) that has emerged from this T&F work. The Task and Finish Group has concluded its remit and the Policy has now gone to a wider consultation within the Council organisation as part of the formal adoption.

I would like to take the opportunity to thank fellow panellists for their informed work on this Task and Finish Group, and for Officers in working with ourselves in a genuine and forward-thinking discussion of this issue.

As one Task and Finish Group concludes so we progress to our next area. This will consider the area of our commercialisation strategy as a Council. Members who have followed the Corporate Peer Review process will be aware of the issues which it raised over commercialisation and the scrutiny process.

Following the Panel discussion of the Corporate Peer Review at the meeting, I had a further online meeting with two different representatives from the LGA the following week. I was for the most part able to outline the steps that the B&TSP had taken over the intervening weeks to rise to the challenge of their initial findings. I suspect personally though they will ultimately wish for further progression towards a two panel system amongst their recommendations for the scrutiny process.

As a Panel we had a positive discussion on the issues of obtaining better Ward level value from Section 106 Agreements. I feel for those attending it was certainly an informative and constructive discussion, so much so, that we have requested that this similar discussion is raised through the Informal Council process so that all Members can have an informed overview of this area, which we hope will assist them in their Ward obligations.

Lastly, but by no means least, in the terms of the discussion it generated, was the planning for a No Deal Brexit. On this we have further information due in terms of a Risk Assessment for a future meeting.

Full details of the discussions are to be found within the Minute Book

Cllr James Bainbridge
Chairman