

44/24 Questions

There were no questions relating to the business of the Committee.

45/24 Public Participation

There were no questions, petitions or deputations of a general nature relating to the business of the Committee.

46/24 Performance and Risk Monitoring Report: Quarter Two 2024/25

The Head of People and Organisational Development presented the report which updated Members on progress at the end of September 2024 in delivering the 2024-2027 Business Plan, including the management of key corporate and Business Plan risks.

Members raised the need to make adjustments to the risk indicator on reputation management as it seemed overbearing in relation to media and there were other areas of the Authority's work to consider. The Chief Executive agreed to review the risk narrative going forward.

Members reflected on the progress being made with regards to carbon reduction, acknowledging the work to be progressed on natural capital. Again, a review of the wording of the narrative was raised.

Decided:

- a Members reviewed progress at the end of September 2024 in delivering the 2024-2027 Business Plan by reviewing performance, as set out in Annexes 1, 2, 3 and 5; and
- b Members reviewed the corporate risks and Business Plan risks, as set out in Annexes 1 and 4.

47/24 Performance Management Strategy

The Head of People and Organisational Development presented the report setting out the Authority's refreshed Performance Management Strategy, which included the Performance Management Framework.

Member discussed future developments in the Authority's approach to performance management which would be included in next year's review of the Performance Management Strategy, once agreed and embedded into our processes. The intention would be to introduce a process for Members to review and agree the set of performance indicators to be included in the Authority's annual Statement of Accounts each year together with the development of a risk register for the Partnership's Plan.

Decided:

- a Members reviewed and approved the Performance Management Strategy, and Performance Management Framework, as shown in Annex 1.

48/24 Finance Report: Quarter 2 2024/25

The Head of Resources presented the report which updated Members on revenue and capital budget performance for Quarter 2 2024/25. This provided assurance that the Authority is operating within the approved budget envelope, highlighted any proposed budget amendments that required Member approval, and flagged significant financial risks.

Members acknowledged the risk around the increase in employers' National Insurance contributions and the potential pressure on the budget should there be no rise in the National Park grant to mitigate it.

Members discussed the ongoing work with the Local Authorities on Nutrient Mitigation Funding and the role of Westmorland and Furness Council as the accountable body. As a landowner ourselves Members welcomed the opportunity of being able to access the funds going forward.

Decided:

- a Members noted the financial performance against capital and revenue budgets to the end of the quarter, and the emerging financial risks.

49/24 Financial Resilience Assessment 2024/25

The Head of Resources presented the report setting out an assessment of the Authority's financial resilience and outlined the actions the Authority needs to take to improve it as part of the development of the Medium-Term Financial Strategy (MTFS) 2025/26. It also outlined the key assumptions which will underpin the development of our 2025/26 Budget and Medium-Term Financial Strategy.

Members were invited to consider and comment on this Financial Resilience Assessment and the assumptions underpinning our budget setting process to ensure that robust arrangements were in place to support the development of the MTFS.

Members endorsed the report and the need to make realistic assumptions, recognising that a timely steer from the Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs (DEFRA) would be welcome to ensure that any savings could be identified. The value of volunteers to the organisation was raised and the need to progress expansion of the service in line with the recently updated volunteer strategy.

Decided:

- a Members considered and commented on the Financial Resilience Assessment 2024/25 and key assumptions underpinning the development of the 2025/26 Budget and Medium-Term Financial Strategy.

50/24 Staff Turnover Report 2023/24

The Head of People and Organisational Development presented the report setting out the Authority's Staff Turnover Report for 2023/24.

Members commended the report finding the information extremely helpful with regards to reasons for staff leaving. Members welcomed and recognised the benefits of potential secondment opportunities for staff with the wider National Park family.

Decided:

- a Members noted the Staff Turnover Report for 2023/24, as shown in Annex 1.

The Committee passed the following Resolution:

Under Section 100(A)(4) of the Local Government Act 1972, the public be excluded from the meeting for the following items. This was because exempt information, as defined in Schedule 12A of the Act, may be disclosed during discussions.

Part 2

Commercial In Confidence

The meeting was adjourned and reconvened after a 10 minute break.

51/24 Disposals and Exemptions 2024/5 – Quarter 2 Update

The Head of Resources presented the paper providing Members with the quarter 2 update on progress against planned asset disposals and exemptions granted within the procurement standing orders.

Members considered the paper and agreed that the information in relation to the property at Silecroft need no longer be reported.

Decided:

- a Members noted the progress against the planned disposals in Annex 1; and
- b Members noted the exemptions to the procurement standing orders set out in Annex 2.

Commercial in Confidence & Staff in Confidence

52/24 Visitor Services 2024/25 Quarter 2 Trading and Budget Progress

The Head of Visitor Services presented the paper giving an update on our Visitor Services trading position as at the end of quarter 2 (Q2) of the 2024/25 financial year and reflects our year end position.

Members acknowledged and discussed the trading position across the whole of the remit of visitor services.

Decided:

- a Members reviewed and commented on the Quarter 2 Trading Position; and

b Members noted the performance of period 7.

(The meeting finished at 12.03 pm)