

## **Minutes of the Budget and Corporate Scrutiny Management Board**

**13<sup>th</sup> June, 2018 at 5.00pm  
at Sandwell Council House, Oldbury**

**Present:** Councillor P Hughes (Chair);  
Councillors Ahmed, Hickey and Underhill.

**Apologies:** Councillor E M Giles.

**In attendance:** Councillor Trow (Cabinet Member for Culture and Core Council Services);  
Councillor Downing (Vice-Chair of Health and Adult Social Care Scrutiny Board);  
D Carter (Executive Director – Resources);  
S Suthi-Nagra (Democratic Services Manager).

10/18 **Minutes**

**Resolved** that the minutes of the meeting held on 11<sup>th</sup> April, 2018 be approved as a correct record.

11/18 **Vision 2030 – Tracking Our Journey**

The Cabinet Member for Culture and Core Council Services attended the meeting with the Executive Director – Resources to present the proposals for tracking the borough's journey to 2030 to the Scrutiny Management Board.

It was proposed to use an 'inclusive growth' approach for tracking the journey towards 2030. This was about the people of Sandwell being able to really touch, taste and feel the benefit of rising prosperity in the region. It was designed to not just measure speed of growth but also how well it was shared across the whole of Sandwell as a place and the people who lived there.

## Budget and Corporate Scrutiny Management Board – 13<sup>th</sup> June, 2018

Achieving inclusive growth would mean that more people needed to feel the benefits in terms of:-

- Participation – for example creating more good, well paid jobs and helping people to get the skills needed for those jobs;
- Distribution – making sure the benefits of growth are spread and that barriers to that are actively broken down;
- Investment – investing resources where they would have the highest social impact and long-term benefit.

It was reported that the Joseph Rowntree Foundation, in partnership with the University of Manchester ran an Inclusive Growth Analysis Unit that provided inclusive growth information across the country by Local Enterprise Partnership (LEP) area. The Foundation had sought a pilot authority within the West Midlands Combined Authority area on inclusive growth and Sandwell had volunteered to take part.

The Inclusive Growth Monitor developed by the Foundation and University's Analysis Unit contained two themes; Economic Inclusion and Prosperity. Each theme had three dimensions, with each dimension having three broad indicators. The scores for these helped build a picture of inclusion and prosperity across the regions. It was reported that the Black Country LEP area had the lowest scores for both inclusion and prosperity.

It was acknowledged that Sandwell's Vision 2030 had broader objectives than just achieving inclusive growth, so it was proposed to use four themes to track the journey to 2030:

- Inclusion;
- Prosperity;
- Health and Childhood;
- Community.

It was also proposed to introduce a new 'Sandwell Barometer', which would be a resident survey that could be undertaken every two years to seek to track and understand how people who live in Sandwell feel. This would be added to the more conventional indicators within the four tracking themes to help build an insight into the direction of travel.

## Budget and Corporate Scrutiny Management Board – 13<sup>th</sup> June, 2018

The Executive Director – Resources provided the Board with an overview of the Aspire project. This project was undertaken by employees on the Council's graduate programme and was linked to ambition 1 of the Vision. There had been over 3000 responses to an on-line survey and focus groups had been held with young people across the borough. The findings of the project were due to be published in Summer 2018.

From the comments and questions by members of the Board, the following responses were made and issues highlighted:-

- The concept of inclusive growth had been adopted as a key principle by the West Midlands Combined Authority and it had recently established an Inclusive Growth Unit. This would help ensure that investment to the region was not focussed on one particular area, but that the benefits of regeneration would be felt across the entire region.
- In order to effectively track the journey to 2030 it was important to ensure that some of the data was comparable to other local authority areas.
- The combination of quantitative and qualitative data that was proposed for the Journey Tracker and the Sandwell Barometer would help build a thorough understanding of the effectiveness of the work being undertaken by the Council and its partners to achieve the ambitions.
- The Council had surveyed 900 people when developing the Vision 2030. This comprised 150 from each town and care had been taken to ensure it was representative of local community demographics. Any future surveys in support of the Vision 2030, such as the Sandwell Barometer, would ensure representation was considered.
- The possibility of 'tracking' specific individuals over the course of the journey to 2030 had not yet been explored.
- The Cabinet Member for Culture and Core Council Services had met with the chairs of the four Strategic Partnerships (Safer Sandwell Partnership, Health and Wellbeing Board and the Adult and Children Safeguarding Boards) to discuss the proposals.

## **Budget and Corporate Scrutiny Management Board – 13<sup>th</sup> June, 2018**

- An event had been held at Q3 Academy Langley with students in years 7 and 8 to discuss aspirations and what they want from Sandwell. Feedback from the event had been very positive and other schools were seeking to engage with the Council with similar events with at least six being organised before the end of the current school year.
- There was a need to create opportunities for creative thinking both across partner agencies and the local community.
- From previous research, levels of aspiration tended to drop during Key Stage 3 of a young person's education. The most significant factor in a young person's aspirations was their parents.

The Board thanked the Cabinet Member and Executive Director for attending the meeting.

The members of the Board undertook to consider the proposals in further detail and submit any additional comments during the consultation period for the journey tracker.

### **Resolved:-**

- (1) that the Executive Director – Resources investigate ways of tracking the journeys of individuals throughout the Vision 2030 period to help build a picture of developing aspirations and feelings;
- (2) that the Executive Director – Resources provide further details of schools engaging with the Council on Vision 2030 work and the Aspire project to Scrutiny;
- (3) that a report on the findings of the Aspire project be included on the work programme for the Budget and Corporate Scrutiny Management Board.

12/18

### **Draft Annual Report 2017-18**

The Board received a draft annual report for the 2017-18 municipal year. Members welcomed that the report had been themed to demonstrate the strong connection between the work of the overview and scrutiny function and the ambitions contained within Vision 2030.

## **Budget and Corporate Scrutiny Management Board – 13<sup>th</sup> June, 2018**

### **Resolved:-**

- (1) that the draft Annual Report 2017-18 be received;
- (2) that the draft Annual Report be circulated to the chairs and vice-chairs of Scrutiny Board in 2017-18 for comment;
- (3) that, subject to (2) above, the Chair of the Budget and Corporate Scrutiny Management Board be authorised to agree a final Annual Report for submission to Council in July 2018.

(Meeting ended at 6.07pm)

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