

**SUPPLEMENTARY REPORT
RECOMMENDATIONS OF THE EXECUTIVE**

Executive Summary

This supplementary report sets out the extracts from the draft minutes of the meeting of the Executive held on 21 March 2024 which relate to the recommendations before the Council.

THE EXECUTIVE – 21 MARCH 2024

A. The Improvement And Recovery Plan Progress – November 2023 To March 2024

The Leader of the Council, Councillor Barker, introduced the report which recommended to Council the third Improvement and Recovery Plan progress report to Commissioners. The Improvement and Recovery Plan had been adopted by the Council in August 2023 following government intervention, and detailed the actions that the Council would undertake to deliver against the Government directions, together with milestones and delivery targets to measure progress. The Leader reported that although the Council remained in a challenging financial position and there was much work to do, good progress had been made on the Council's journey towards financial sustainability and delivering best value for residents. Attention was drawn to the Council being able to set a legal budget for 2024/25, which demonstrated to Government and residents that the Council was taking steps to get its own house in order and move towards financial sustainability.

Key areas of progress were highlighted across the Plan's five themes; Financial Recovery, Commercial, Governance and Assurance, Organisation and Service Redesign, and Housing Recovery and Improvement. It was noted that later on the agenda, the Executive would consider proposals to strengthen the Council's companies governance arrangements, investment in a new Resident Services Programme to improve customer experience, and proposals for a new Council meeting structure to improve effectiveness, openness and transparency of decision making.

The Overview and Scrutiny Committee had considered the progress report at its meeting on 18 March 2024 and had not made any specific proposals.

The Executive welcomed the improvement and recovery work undertaken across all the Plan's themes and thanked Officers for their hard work.

RECOMMENDED to Council

That the third Improvement and Recovery Plan progress report to Commissioners be approved.

Reason: Following statutory government intervention and the issuing of a Section 114 Notice, the Council was required to put in place an Improvement and Recovery Plan and to report to the Commissioners on its delivery.

Supplementary Report – Recommendations of the Executive

B. Companies Governance Framework – Shareholder Executive Committee

The Executive received a report which set out proposals to further strengthen the Council's oversight and governance of its companies. Following changes to the governance of Council companies approved by Council in July 2022, further detailed work was undertaken as part of the Improvement and Recovery Plan which led to the Executive adopting the Companies' Governance Framework at its meeting on 16 November 2023. As part of the Council's continuous improvement, it was proposed to replace the Shareholder Advisory Group (SAG) with a formal Shareholder Executive Committee (SEC) in order to enhance, improve and strengthen governance. The SEC would comprise of the Executive and an Independent Co-opted Member, and would have scheduled public meetings in order to increase transparency. It was noted that Part Two commercially confidential matters would be kept to a minimum. Practical issues were raised such as the increase in face-to-face meetings, and resource requirements to properly manage the SEC.

Following a question on Appendix 2, it was clarified that COE referred to Council Owned Entities.

RESOLVED

- That (i) the Shareholder Advisory Group cease to exist as a group and the Shareholder Executive Committee be established as its replacement;
- (ii) the Terms of Reference for the new Committee, attached at Appendix 1 to the report, be approved; and

RECOMMENDED to Council

That Part 6 of the Council's Constitution be amended as set out in Appendix 2 to the report.

Reason: Establishing a new Committee will formalise arrangements for the oversight and governance of the Council's companies in the interests of accountability and transparency.

Background Papers: None.

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