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Overview and Scrutiny Management Committee

10:00am on Friday 24th October 2025

Room 77, The Guildhall, Alfred Gelder Street, Hull, HU1 2AA and MS Teams

Present:

Councillors Burton, Gardiner, Hale, Hofman, Kemp, Pantelakis, Payne, Randall and Robinson (Chair)

In attendance

Councillor M. Ross – Leader of the Council

D. Bell – Director of Finance and Transformation, Hull City Council

A. Renton – Head of Revenues and Benefits, Hull City Council

A. Blake – Assistant Director of Major Projects and Infrastructure, Hull City Council

C. Bradbury – Senior Capital Programme Manager, Hull City Council

A. Holgate – Head of Governance and Statutory Scrutiny Officer, Hull City Council

Apologies:

No apologies were received.

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29	DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST	
Councillor Randall declared an interest at minute 31 insofar as she has grandchildren who have been diagnosed as having Autism and ADHD.		
Recommendations:	Reasons for Recommendations:	Officer Assigned
a) That the declared interest be noted.	a) To ensure the Register of Members' Interests is updated accordingly	Business Support and Development Manager (Governance)

30	MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD ON 19TH SEPTEMBER 2025	
A. Holgate (Head of Governance) submitted the minutes of the meeting of Friday 19 September 2025 for approval.		
Recommendations:	Reasons for Recommendations:	Officer Assigned
a) That the minutes of the meeting held on Friday 19 th September 2025 be taken as read and correctly recorded.	a) N/A.	a) N/A

31	LEADER'S PRIORITIES 2025-26	
The Leader of the Council informed the Committee of his current priorities which included: i) The progress on the development of the		

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Community Plan; ii) the Leader's role as the Hull and East Yorkshire Combined Authority Skills Portfolio; iii) business growth and promotion of the region through working alongside other regional leaders; iv) addressing the issues around the "Cost of Living" including work ongoing through the provision of "Cost of Living Community Grants and community "Warm Spaces".

The Committee raised the following matters: i) The lack of focus on roads and transport infrastructure, and particular concern in relation to the ongoing Drypool Bridge works; ii) the lack of reference to community safety issues.

The Leader confirmed that as these matters did not fall directly under his responsibility and whilst he was ultimately responsible for all matters across the Council his update focussed solely on those matters falling directly within his remit. Confirmation was provided that these matters had been, and would be, the focus of discussions at the Economy and Environment and the Communities Overview and Scrutiny Commissions were the relevant Portfolio Holder's would discuss their priorities. Confirmation was provided that progress on Drypool Bridge was currently on schedule and budget.

The Committee discussed the Leader's role on the Hull and East Yorkshire Combined Authority and the need to ensure that priorities for the City were not being overlooked, particularly in relation to rail electrification and the impact of the non-agreement of the current Combined Authority Mayor with the White Rose Agreement. The Leader confirmed that he had written to the government on the matter of rail electrification stressing that full electrification was agreed as part of the devolution deal.

The Committee asked the Leader about what he was doing to ensure the availability of skills and training for residents and what was he doing to drive forward the skills agenda and, in particular the need for manufacturing skills. The Leader advised that he was working alongside the sector, including learners, businesses, skills organisations and providers and other leaders to understand the needs fully and identify the range of issues, gaps and what individuals need. The Committee sought assurances that, in respect of Hull Training and Adult Education, there would be protection to ensure that that the City retained the majority benefit given the support provided by Hull City Council; that women and other marginal groups would be supported into the workplace, particularly into skilled and manual roles, and how the Leader would be ensuring young people have the functional skills required at the start of their careers. The Leader advised that Hull Training and Adult Education would see provision being increased and there would be a growth within current, and of new providers within the system which should also help Hull Training and Adult Education with their position. The Leader agreed that communication of opportunities had been an issue in general, but that this was being addressed through events such as the Women in Manufacturing and Engineering (WiME) event which took place at the Guildhall recently. The Leader advised that the importance of functional skills had also been raised by business leaders and there would need to be continued engagements between schools, the council and the business sector to address this. It was noted that the development of the Autism Plan may assist in supporting discussion regarding ensuring neurodiversity is considered, and the right level of support is in place which doesn't result in unrealistic expectations of employer provision and support.

The Committee asked the Leader about the community engagement work undertaken by the Council. The Leader advised that there had been a concerted effort to engage with various groups and work has been undertaken with partners and that there was an

opportunity to further engage to ensure the needs of the community are reflected through the framework of the Community Plan.

The Committee asked the Leader about his priority and plans for business growth and promoting the region, specifically what that work looks like and what kind of activity may be expected and sought assurance of the continued involvement of young people, in particular the Committee were concerned that there needed to be ambitious plans for growth, but that this was also supported by the ability to hold business to account. The Leader confirmed that young people would continue to be involved, particularly through mechanisms such as the Young People’s Parliament and the Young Mayor and further advised that that now devolution is in place work is taking place with partners across the region to establish an entity to lead this work, which will also work alongside the private sector and plans are in development on economic issues which cross the local authority boundaries with energy being of prime consideration. The Leader advised that the capital programme continued to be delivered, and whilst there were tight reigns on this, he felt it was ambitious.

Recommendations:	Reasons for Recommendations:	Officer Assigned
<p>a) That the briefing, planned to be considered by the Economy and Environment Overview and Scrutiny Commission, on Levelling up Funding and it’s use to support business and economic growth in the city be circulated to members of the Committee.</p>	<p>a) To ensure that the Committee has oversight of the delivery of funding.</p>	<p>a) A. Spouse, Scrutiny Officer, E&E OSC</p>

32	REVENUE BUDGET MONITORING 2025-26 – SECOND FORMAL REPORT	
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The Director of Finance and Transformation presented a report which sought to update members on the revenue budget monitoring position as at Period 5 (August 2025), alongside explanations for material variances from budget, year-end projections, and the management actions being taken where appropriate. The report also set out the General Fund revenue, Dedicated Schools Grant (DSG) and the Housing Revenue Account (HRA) budget monitoring positions. The Committee were advised that at present, whilst given the early stage of the financial year there remained a high degree of uncertainty regarding the likely year-end position, current projections indicated an overspend of £5.6m, as a result of additional pressures in adults and children’s social care, and through temporary accommodations, the intention was to try to mitigate these pressures by year-end, and the ongoing challenges were being fed into the national fair-funding debate.

In relation to the Neighbourhoods and Housing Service, the Committee confirmed that there were plans to decrease the costs

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associated with homeless provision through securing more alternative provision and reducing reliance on bed and breakfast and hotel provision which would in turn reduce reliance on using reserves. The Committee confirmed the outcome of the fair funding review and one-off windfalls such as capital receipts may provide some opportunity to recover a position on reserves, although this was not guaranteed, not a long-term strategy.

In relation to the Children, Young People and Families Service, the Committee clarified that whilst there was a target to reduce agency costs by £800k, it had to date achieved £400k of savings; that whilst the work done to improve recruitment and retention of Social Workers was commendable these did tend to be at more junior levels and therefore there may remain issues with recruitment for more senior roles which may impact on savings, and the duration of the use of temporary children's homes and whether these were registered children's homes and if so, was a need to formalise this arrangement to ensure the safety and protection of vulnerable young people. The Director advised that the plan was to achieve the anticipated savings over the course of time; that the rules in relation to Social Workers who had undertaken their training through the Council had been tightened, resulting in making it more difficult to move to another employer quickly, any further information would need to be dealt with by the appropriate Commission/service, and that the matter of temporary children's homes needed to be referred to the appropriate Commission/service.

In relation to the Disabled Facilities Grant, the Committee confirmed that whilst there was still issue with recruitment of Occupational Therapists there had been efficiency improvements which meant that more of the Grant was being utilised, however the Council was not at the stage where there was more works having been identified than there was grant available.

The Committee sought clarification on the application of the Right of First Refusal in relation to previous Right to Buy properties, and questioned the progress on Henson Villas and the Boothferry estate high rise blocks. It was confirmed that the pro-active approach to the Right of First Refusal process was that all homeowners who had purchased a former council property were being contacted to inform them of the policy. In respect of Henson Villas and the Boothferry estate high rise blocks the Committee were informed that both projects were scrutinised at Communities OSC and it was confirmed that these are now moving at pace. The Committee raised concerns about the lack of an holistic overview in relation to property disposals and the need to ensure additional social housing.

The Committee discussed the noted pressures in the Customer Services Centres relating to out of hours and weekend working overtime payments and whether there was contracted requirements to require seven day working, or if staff are on a five day Monday to Friday contract who are then paid overtime on a voluntary basis as a result; that there was a longer term plan which sought to reduce the aggregate staff demand through integrating the housing lifeline service and the call centre, but that there will always be a requirement for overtime merging the systems will reduce the overall need.

Recommendations:	Reasons for Recommendations:	Officer Assigned
a) The issue of recruitment and retention to more senior roles in social work/care be referred to the Children, Young People and Families Overview and Scrutiny Commission.	a) To enable scrutiny of the strategy for recruitment and retention to senior social work/care roles and ensure that delivery of the anticipated savings can be made.	a) P. Todd
b) The issue of the use of temporary children's homes and whether there was a need to formalise this arrangement be referred to the Children, Young People and Families Overview and Scrutiny Commission.	b) To enable scrutiny of the use of temporary children's homes and the plans for future use.	b) P. Todd
c) That information on the contracted hours of the call centre staff is considered further, in particular if contracts specify a five day or seven day week.	c) To understand if the contracts and voluntary overtime have an impact on budgets.	c) L. Buttery
d) That all members are provided information on the Right of First Refusal.	d) To ensure that members are informed of the process and can provide information on properties which may be subject to the protocol.	d) B. Hanson

33	2025/26 CAPITAL MONITORING AND TREASURY MANAGEMENT PRUDENTIAL INDICATORS – FIRST FORMAL UPDATE REPORT	
<p>The Director of Finance and Transformation presented a report which provided detail on the Capital Programme for 2025/26 to 2028/29 and noted that it was anticipated that spend would exceed £200m for the year which represented a very positive, but significant level of investment in the City. Contingency had also been released for works at Ennerdale Leisure Centre, the South Blockhouse, Sculcoates/Chapman Street Bridge and Willowfield school funding.</p> <p>The Committee discussed the progress and completion of Chapman Street Bridge, with changes to the Programme reflecting more realistic estimates for bringing the bridge back into use with a restricted weight limit; the importance of the repairs taking place quickly to reduce travel disruption, and the design process ensuring the successful management of any restrictions. In relation to Ennerdale</p>		

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<p>Leisure Centre, it was confirmed that the additional was future investment was being brought forward to prevent having it to close in the future and should not extend the current programme. The Committee discussed the cost of highways maintenance and whether the repairs backlog could be addressed in that the Council recognise that there is a need to fund over and above the funding provided by the government which has been done consistently over the last few years, and that due to a number of limiting factors, including funding, capacity and the more complex nature of dealing with multiple bridges, it wasn't realistic that this would be fully addressed.</p>		
Recommendations:	Reasons for Recommendations:	Officer Assigned
<p>a) That confirmation be provided off agenda that there are no further anticipated delays to the re-opening of Ennerdale Leisure Centre as a result of the further brought-forward works.</p>	<p>a) To provide assurance to members.</p>	<p>a) A. Blake</p>

34	HOUSEHOLD SUPPORT FUND 7 – UPDATE ON DISTRIBUTION OF FUNDS	
<p>The Director of Finance and Transformation presented a report which detailed the distribution of the Household Support Funding for the period of 1st April 2025 to 31st August 2025.</p> <p>The Committee discussed the impact of the Council resolution to increase the funding for school uniform provision; the awareness of social workers of the fund and the communication plan to ensure those who need support are receiving it; the roll out of auto-enrolment across the city in relation to free school meals, and the responsibility of the Governors of schools and their accountability to the Secretary of State to ensure that the pupil premium received by schools is spent appropriately. It was confirmed that the figure in the report was recorded as £0 due to the process whereby schools cover the initial costs which are then reimbursed from the Fund at a later date; that schools promote and use the scheme, and that the information in relation to auto-enrolment will be confirmed off agenda.</p>		
Recommendations:	Reasons for Recommendations:	Officer Assigned
<p>a) That information on the roll out of auto-enrolment of free school meals across the city is provided to the Committee off agenda.</p>	<p>a) To ensure that members are informed of the plans.</p>	<p>a) A. Renton</p>

35	HULL DISTRICT HEATING NETWORK COMMUNICATIONS UPDATE		
<p>The Assistant Director of Major Projects presented a briefing paper with detailed the progress against delivering the district heating network scheme and sets out the communication work that had been undertaken with residents and businesses and recognises the lessons learned from the communications which took place during the earlier phases of the scheme with designated officers now in place to support communications.</p> <p>The Committee discussed the need to ensure that basic highways signage is provided to protect businesses who may be significantly disrupted by but not benefit directly from the works; the need to communicate that the beneficiaries will also be the residents of Great Thornton Street; that there are also a number of businesses who will be able to connect and benefit and communications are in place to assess interest; that there are also a number of community benefits e.g. education and skills; the size of the scheme particularly at Alfred Gelder Street and that at this location it was wider due to the number of pipes required and the need to avoid any widespread road closures particularly to main highways by taking the work off the highway and co-ordinating with other highways works to avoid duplication.</p>			
Recommendations:		Reasons for Recommendations:	Officer Assigned
a) That the briefing paper is noted.		a) N/A	a) N/A

35	OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY COMMITTEE OUTSTANDING ACTIONS		
<p>The Head of Governance submitted the outstanding actions list.</p> <p>The Commission discussed the need for more detailed commentary from Cabinet when the Committee provided comments; the requirement that the Committee consider the progress on the Wi-Fi installation at its meeting in November.</p>			

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Recommendations:	Reasons for Recommendations:	Officer Assigned
a) That the action list be noted and those items with a RAG rating of “green” be removed.	a) To ensure the committee can track progress.	a) P. Todd

35	REFERRAL REPORT	
The Head of Governance submitted the referrals made to the Committee and proposals on how to address these.		
Recommendations:	Reasons for Recommendations:	Officer Assigned
a) That the referrals are noted and progressed as recommended.	a) To ensure referrals are considered by the most appropriate body.	a) P. Todd

25	OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE WORK PROGRAMME 2025-26	
The Head of Governance presented the Committee’s work programme to support Committee members in their consideration of items they wished to be included on the agenda.		
Recommendations:	Reasons for Recommendations:	Officer Assigned
a) The Committee requested that the re-admission of Elected Members to the Local Government Pension Scheme.	a) To ensure Elected Members have access to the scheme at the earliest point possible.	a) D. Bell/ P.Todd

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<p>b) That the Assistant Director of Digital and IT be asked to consider detailing the contingency arrangements in place in respect of the implementation of Workday due to the risk to public cloud, and how Workday's AI policy aligns with the Council's AI policy.</p>	<p>b) To ensure the Council has sufficient control measures in place.</p>	<p>b) D. Bell/ M. Kenworthy/ R. Barker</p>
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