

SOUTHEND-ON-SEA CITY COUNCIL

Meeting of Audit Committee

Date: Wednesday, 23rd March, 2022

Place: Council Chamber - Civic Suite

Present: Councillor M Dent (Chair)
Councillors I Shead (Vice-Chair), H Boyd, K Evans, S Habermel,
P Wexham,* K Buck, *T Cox, *K Robinson
K Pandya (Coopted Member)

*Substitute in accordance with Council Procedure Rule 31.

In Attendance: Councillors
A Barnes, R Harris, J Burr and J Chesterton

Start/End Time: 6.30 pm - 9.25 pm

857 Apologies for Absence

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors Dear (substitute: Cllr Cox), Folkard (substitute: Cllr Buck) and George (substitute: Cllr Robinson).

858 Declarations of Interest

There were no declarations of interests at this meeting.

859 Vecteo Update

The Committee considered a report of the Executive Director (Finance and Resources) presenting an update on the progress made in delivering the work required in respect of the special educational needs and disability (SEND) passenger transport provision provided by Vecteo and a summary overview of the findings of the work that has been undertaken, including the main themes and the key actions planned to improve the current service and to ensure improvements for any such service delivery vehicles used in the future.

During consideration of the matter, the Committee resolved to exclude the public and press from the meeting (confidential session) to enable questions and comments to be raised on the financial and commercial aspects of the matter, including an overview of a range of options.

The Committee came back into the public session for general questions, comments and the decision.

Resolved:

1. That the following matters be noted:

- (i) The progress made in delivering the review work required in respect of the SEND passenger transport contract;
- (ii) The overview of the findings of the work that has been undertaken; and
- (iii) The progress that has been made with the Council's arrangements for working with Vecteo.

2. That the Audit Committee Chair writes to the Chair of the People Scrutiny Committee to arrange a special meeting to undertake an in-depth examination and scrutiny of the service provision and where failures have occurred within this.

3. That the Audit Committee Chair writes to the Leader of the Council to arrange a special meeting of the Shareholder Board to undertake a full contractual review of the Vecteo contract.

860 Vote of Thanks

The Committee thanked the Chair for the able way in which he had conducted the business of the meetings over the municipal year. The Chair took the opportunity to thank the Committee and officers for their support.

Chair: _____