

## **Overview and Scrutiny Committee 15 June 2023 Advance Questions**

### **Agenda Item 6 - Quarter 4 2022/23 Performance Report**

#### **Question 1**

The presumption of KPI 8 as an Environmental Quality Survey lacks ambition. Subsumed within the moniker of Tidiness is a highly questionable assumption of well-being. There is, for example, no mention of illegal tree felling or failures of care for the borough's unambitious tree planting projects. No mention of water pollution or lack of swimmable rivers. Furthermore, there is lack of consideration in this audit for the Borough's wildlife. These things certainly impact our Environment and Quality of Life. Tidiness we know is a low order state of mind; Environmental Quality is a KPI we should surely pursue with greater ambition and in a broader framework?

#### **Written Answer**

KPIs are one means by which performance against key corporate objectives is measured and reported.

KPI 8 is included because the cleanliness of the borough has been agreed to be an important corporate priority. This KPI was introduced as a result of a comprehensive review of KPIs at the time that the latest corporate plan was implemented (2020), which included input from a member working group.

As well as KPIs, there are a range of other ways in which both direct council performance, and wider circumstances within the borough (not always within our control) are reported on. This includes:

- the Annual Corporate Plan Progress report, which includes specific updates on each priority within the Corporate Plan. This is due to come to the O&S Committee for consideration in July and will include progress updates on priorities including Clean and Green Spaces and Environmental Sustainability
- the Annual Environmental Sustainability Strategy progress report. This is due to come to the O&S Committee for consideration in September, and will include updates on Environmental Sustainability Strategy actions relating to (amongst other things) ecological enhancement and environmental pollution prevention
- the annual Environment and Sustainability Monitor, published on the Council website, which provides information on a wide range of natural environment, cultural and built heritage and sustainable development metrics.

KPIs for the year ahead are set annually by the Executive, in consultation with the Overview & Scrutiny Committee. The KPIs for 2023/24 were considered by the Overview & Scrutiny Committee on 16<sup>th</sup> March and agreed by the Executive on 23<sup>rd</sup> March. A similar timeframe will be pursued for agreement of KPIs for 2024/25, giving

Overview & Scrutiny members the opportunity to make suggestions about the approach that should be taken for the year ahead.

## **Agenda Item 7 – Treasury Management Strategy 2023/24**

### **Question 2**

(Page 82) This Council holds invested funds representing income received in advance of expenditure. When investing in funds, the Council states it prioritises funds operated by managers that are signatories to the Net Zero Asset Managers Alliance. In the last 12 months, has there been any occasion when these invested funds have been operated by managers who are \*not\* signatories of NZAMA? Also, what are the names of the fund managers used?

### **Written Answer**

As stated in the question, the Treasury Management Strategy for 2023/24 includes taking into consideration whether funds are signatories to the Net Zero Asset Management Alliance (NZAMA). This must however be after the security, liquidity and yield of the investment have been assessed.

This requirement is a new addition to the Strategy for 2023/24 to reflect good practice regarding Environmental, Social and Corporate Governance (ESG) considerations, however it does not apply retrospectively for previous years.

Nevertheless, of the six Money Market Funds where Council funds were placed in 2023/24, four met the NZAMA criteria.

With regard to the identity of fund managers: in 2023/24 the Council invested in the following Money Market Funds and, where identified, the managers are listed below:

| <b>Money Market Fund</b>   | <b>Fund Manager</b>  |
|--|--|
| Aberdeen Liquidity Fund – Sterling Fund Class L-1                  | Aberdeen Liquidity Team  |
| Blackrock ICS Sterling Fund Heritage (Dis) GBP                     | Matt Clay, Managing Director and Paul Hauff, Portfolio Manager |
| Deutsche Managed GBP LVNAV Reserved (DWS)                          | DWS Investment Team  |
| Goldman Sachs Sterling Liquid Reserve Institutional                | Goldman Sachs Asset Management Team                            |
| Legal & General Investment Management – LGIM GBP Liquidity Class 4 | Legal & General Investment Management Team                     |
| Morgan Stanley GBP Liquidity Institutional Plus                    | Douglas McPhail – Executive Director                           |