

OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE

MINUTES of a MEETING held at COUNTY HALL, TROWBRIDGE on 6 NOVEMBER 2008.

PRESENT: Mr JB Osborn (Chairman), Mr BE Dalton, Mr E Clark, Mr AN Deane, Mrs EM Hannaford-Dobson, Mr A Molland, Mrs JH Rooke, Mr AJ Trotman and Mr RS While.

113. **Apologies** Mr RT Rogers and Mrs ME Groom

114. **Minutes of Previous Meeting**

Resolved:

To confirm and sign the minutes of the meeting held on 4 September 2008

115. **Members Interests** Mr Trotman declared a personal interest in respect of a relative being a user of OSJ day services.

116. **Review of Day Care Services and Respite Care provided by Orders of St. John Care Trust**

A report by the Head of Commissioning Older People and People with Physical Impairment had been circulated as requested by the Committee as part of its consideration of Orders of St John Care Trust's annual report in June.

James Cawley, Assistant Director, Strategy & Commissioning presented the review report. In doing so he highlighted a number of issues related to progress with the review which had demonstrated the need to provide appropriate, cost effective services in a modern setting.

Members made a number of comments and asked questions on matters including invoicing systems, development of proposed drop-in/ activities centres for more active older people, level of respite care especially in the south of the County, and the provision of step-up/step-down intermediate care beds.

Members also expressed a wish for further scrutiny of these developments at the appropriate time.

Resolved:

- (1) To thank James Cawley, Assistant Director Strategy & Commissioning for presenting the report and responding to questions.**
- (2) To set up a rapid scrutiny exercise to review the new Accommodation Strategy for Older people prior to Executive consideration early in the new year.
(Nb. To be undertaken in conjunction with the transition Housing Task Group.)**

117. Progress Report on the Implementation of the Corporate Procurement Strategy

A report by the Head of Procurement and Contract Management had been circulated. Tim Gregory, Head of ICT, and Mike Horgan, Strategic Procurement Manager, presented the report. In doing so they highlighted a number of issues including the continuing success in implementing the actions resulting from the Strategy, some contracts could only be rationalised after 1st April when the new Council came in to being, a more disciplined approach to procurement will be delivered through SAP supported by new contract and financial regulations in the Constitution.

Members made a number of comments and asked questions on matters including realising the benefits of the new procurement regime and how these would be applied. It was acknowledged that the Change Management and Budget Scrutiny Task Groups had important roles in monitoring service department commitment and delivery.

Resolved:

- (1) To thank Tim Gregory, Head of ICT, and Mike Horgan, Strategic Procurement Manager, for presenting the report and responding to questions.**
- (2) To note the content of the report and specifically:**
 - (i) the successful implementation of a corporately supported Procurement Strategy was viewed as best practice (para.6);**
 - (ii) the IE had chosen procurement as an early adopter (para.9(i)); and,**

(iii) **the award received from CIPS in respect of the Wiltshire Schoolquote System.**

(3) **To ask that a report is made to scrutiny early in the new council highlighting the new Corporate Procurement Strategy and providing the opportunity to determine future reporting requirements regarding procurement activity and performance, including benefits realisation.**

(4) **To support the continued implementation and development of a new Corporate Procurement Strategy and note the important role of the Change Management and Budget Scrutiny Task Groups in monitoring aspects of its delivery.**

118. **Review of Working with Voluntary and Community Sector**

Notes and recommendations from the rapid Scrutiny meeting which took place on Tuesday 14 October had been circulated.

The Chairman highlighted confirmation of grant aid for next year, guidance would be needed on the involvement of area boards in awarding local grants from 2010 and, following decision by IE, members would be informed of the arrangements for 2009.

Resolved:

To endorse the rapid scrutiny work done on this topic and to note that Overview and Scrutiny would be given the opportunity (in the new Council) to consider the content of the framework being developed for October 2009 prior to implementation.

119. **Overview and Scrutiny Arrangements for One Council Transition**

It was reported that since the last report, the Joint Overview and Scrutiny Transition Board (JOSTB) had met on 26 September and 31 October. The main focus had been through the work of the Joint Board's task groups reviewing the following priority transition areas:

Development Control – WWDC (completed)

Waste – WCC

Housing – WCC

Community Area Boards – WCC

Customer Access – NWDC

Recent discussions had included the potential for better co-ordination of the work programmes of the 5 councils and the Joint Board, closer scrutiny of the Critical Path and Day One Plans, Council Tax equalisation, BMP cost reduction targets, and IE's request for further information on development control.

The Board would also develop proposals for overview and scrutiny arrangements for the new council with the support of a LG consultant for report at the end of the year.

Members commented on car parking and accommodation needs for the increased number of members in the new council, and the scrutiny arrangements in the interregnum.

Resolved:

To note progress on scrutiny of the transition to One Council including that two Rapid Scrutiny exercises were being organised on Democratic and Electoral Services, and Critical Path and Day One Plan.

120. **Work Programme**

The Committee considered the latest version of the Management Committee's work programme.

Resolved:

- (1) To note the current work programme additional to transition scrutiny and the alterations made as consequence of decisions taken earlier in the meeting.**
- (2) To note that a further RTPi rapid scrutiny exercise would be conducted on 12 November involving Jeff Osborn, Tony Deane and Terry Chivers. This will be held at the Traffic Centre in Salisbury in order to view the system operating centrally.**
- (3) To note that the update on FOCUS Project due in October following the rapid scrutiny exercise on 19 June had been delayed due to the need for more extensive staff consultation and would now be held in January.**

(Duration of Meeting: 10.30 am – 12.25pm)

The Officer who has produced these minutes is Paul Kelly, Democratic & Members' Services, direct line: (01225) 713049.