

OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE

MINUTES OF THE OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE MEETING HELD ON 18 SEPTEMBER 2018 AT THE KENNET ROOM - COUNTY HALL, TROWBRIDGE BA14 8JN.

Present:

Cllr Chuck Berry, Cllr Matthew Dean, Cllr Mary Douglas, Cllr David Halik, Cllr Alan Hill (Vice-Chairman), Cllr Ruth Hopkinson, Cllr Gordon King, Cllr Pip Ridout, Cllr John Walsh, Cllr Stuart Wheeler, Cllr Graham Wright (Chairman) and Cllr Roy While (Substitute)

Also Present:

Cllr George Jeans, Cllr Ian Blair-Pilling, Cllr Tom Rounds, Cllr Baroness Scott of Bybrook OBE, Cllr John Thomson, Cllr Bridget Wayman, Cllr Philip Whitehead, Cllr Robert Yuill, Cllr Richard Britton, Cllr Richard Clewer and Cllr Tony Jackson

55 **Apologies**

Apologies were received from Councillors Christine Crisp, Stewart Dobson, Howard Greenman and Jon Hubbard. Councillor Dobson was substituted by Councillor Roy While.

It was also noted during the meeting that following Council on 10 July 2018 Councillor Mary Douglas has been added to the Committee in place of Councillor Jacqui Lay.

56 **Minutes of the Previous Meeting**

The minutes of the meeting held on 5 June 2018 were presented for consideration and it was,

Resolved:

To approve and sign as a true and correct record.

57 **Declarations of Interest**

There were no declarations.

58 **Chairman's Announcements**

Through the Chair there as a reminder of the Overview and Scrutiny Learning and Development Event, scheduled for 1300 on 10 October 2018. The theme of the event would be how to ensure effective overview and scrutiny meetings.

59 **Public Participation**

No questions were submitted.

A statement was received from Mr Stephen Eades, Wiltshire Friends of the Earth, requesting removal as an option of incineration as a strategic option in the revised Waste Management Strategy.

In discussing the FWP at Minute 60 the Chairman of the Environment Select Committee noted his committee had discussed the issues previously and many were in relation to national government and Environment Agency concerns, and that the committee had considered the draft Waste Management Strategy. The Cabinet Member for Highways, Transport and Waste also provided comment in response to queries from the Committee regarding the issuing of permits by the Environment Agency.

60 **Forward Work Programme**

The Forward Work Programmes as detailed in the agenda pack were considered.

Additional points raised but were not limited to the intention to set up a task group on elective home education, updates on apprenticeship growth targets and timeliness of permanent arrangements for Looked After Children. It was also requested wherever possible that meetings of the Children's Select Committee not take place in the first week of the school year as this was problematic for young people representatives.

Other points noted included a councillor appointment to the Traveller Reference Group, work looking at integrating transport arrangements for example regarding Special Educational Needs, and that the majority of waste contract task group proposals had been accepted by the Environment Committee.

Finally, it was stated there had been positive responses to the Health Select Committee rapid scrutiny exercise on NHS health checks, scorecards would be received quarterly on implementation of the adult social care transformation programme, and there was a proposed task group relating to the operation of health and wellbeing groups to identify best practice.

Resolved:

- 1. To thank Mr Stephen Eades for attending the meeting and speaking under the Public Participation item on the council's draft Waste Strategy.**
- 2. To approve the Overview and Scrutiny forward work programme.**

61 **Executive Response to the Final Report of the Planning Committee System Task Group**

At its meeting on 5 June 2018 the Committee received a report from the Planning Committee System Task Group, and endorsed most of the recommendations of the Task Group as noted in the minutes for the meeting. The Cabinet Member for Spatial Planning, Development Management and Property, Councillor Toby Sturgis, had verbally indicated his responses to the various recommendations at the meeting on 5 June 2018.

A written report was therefore provided confirming the executive response from the Cabinet Member.

Resolved:

To note the executive response to the Final Report of the Planning Committee System Task Group.

62 **Task Group and Programme Board representative update**

Reports and updates were provided by the Task Groups to the Management Committee as detailed in the agenda pack and supplements.

Additional points raised included queries relating to the Military Civilian Integration Partnership Task Group regarding areas of focus for surveying successful cooperation with the military, details on financial impacts of the army basing changes, usage of joint community facilities and staff supporting the programme.

There were also queries relating to the Wiltshire Online programme, details on levels of coverage, past funding, the impact of Brexit on state aid law and work to ensure no double funding would occur as a result of BT pushing hard to meet a government target for provision.

At the conclusion of discussion, it was,

Resolved:

- 1. To note the update on OS task group and programme board representative activity provided.**
- 2. To add Cllrs Britton and Grant to the membership of the Financial Planning Task Group.**
- 3. To remove Cllr Blair-Pilling from the MCIP Task Group as he is now an Executive member.**
- 4. To endorse the Digital Strategy and Implementation Task Group's amended Terms of Reference as set out in the report.**

63 **Review of OS Councillor Remuneration Allocation Scheme**

Since the creation of Wiltshire Council the Members' Allowances Scheme has included a fund specifically to remunerate councillors for work on scrutiny activities. The methodology for apportioning the fund had been altered several times following recommendation of an Independent Remuneration Panel, and current sets out that the Management Committee would be responsible for allocating the fund in accordance with a scheme to be approved annually. The existing scheme sets out fund amounts for vice-chairmanship, and chairmanship of task groups and was approved for the previous financial year on 5 June 2018.

The Committee request a review of the scheme and the Chairman and Vice-Chairman therefore presented a report setting out options for the scheme including no change, and three alternative methods for allocating the scrutiny fund. These included allocating shared based on the number of meetings an activity included, putting a minimum number of meetings before taking on a role such as Chairman of a Task Group qualified for a level of remuneration, and a method wherein shares were allocated based on number of meetings undertaken for a task group, but with a cap on the total amount.

The Committee discussed the options detailed, and some concerns were raised that a share based on numbers of meetings held could encourage needless meetings, although the presence of a cap was considered by others to prevent this. At the end of discussion, it was,

Resolved:

To adopt Option D (see Appendix A to the report) from the 2018-19 municipal years onwards as the method of allocating the £15,000 Overview and Scrutiny (OS) fund to better reflect the varying demands of leading different OS activities

64 **Date of Next Meeting**

The date of the next meeting was confirmed as 20 November 2018. It was agreed that a briefing for councillors would be held from 0930 in advance of the meeting start at 1030.

65 **Urgent Items**

As detailed in Agenda Supplement 1 the government was drafting new statutory guidance on overview and scrutiny in local government. The Committee had previously responded to the government consultation in March 2018.

The Centre for Public Scrutiny and Association of Democratic Services Officers were requesting feedback on what new government guidance should contain, and had provided a series of questions to councils. A proposed response was detailed in the report, and following discussion it was,

Resolved:

- 1)To note that Central Government will be publishing revised Statutory Guidance on OS in Local Government by the end of 2018.**
- 2)To receive the new Statutory Guidance once published.**
- 3)To approve the proposed Wiltshire Council response to a call for evidence from CfPS and ADSO, which are drafting sections of the new guidance.**

(Duration of meeting: 10.30 am - 12.05 pm)

The Officer who has produced these minutes is Kieran Elliott of Democratic Services, direct line (01225) 718504, e-mail kieran.elliott@wiltshire.gov.uk

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