

OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE

MINUTES OF THE OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE MEETING HELD ON 3 NOVEMBER 2015 AT KENNET ROOM - COUNTY HALL, TROWBRIDGE BA14 8JN.

Present:

Cllr Simon Killane (Chairman), Cllr Alan Hill (Vice Chairman), Cllr Glenis Ansell, Cllr Chuck Berry, Cllr Christine Crisp, Cllr Stewart Dobson, Cllr Jon Hubbard, Cllr Jacqui Lay, Cllr John Noeken, Cllr Stephen Oldrieve, Cllr Jeff Osborn, Cllr John Walsh and Cllr Bridget Wayman

Also Present:

Cllr David Jenkins, Cllr Christopher Williams and Cllr Bill Moss

90 **Apologies**

There were no apologies.

91 **Minutes of the Previous Meeting**

The minutes of the meeting held on 8 September 2015 were presented for consideration and it was,

Resolved:

To APPROVE and sign as a correct record the minutes of the meeting held on 8 September 2015.

92 **Declarations of Interest**

There were no declarations.

93 **Chairman's Announcements**

There were no announcements.

94 **Public Participation**

There were no questions or statements submitted.

95 **Forward Work Programme**

The Committee received updates from the Chairman of each Select Committee as follows:

Environment Select Committee (ESC)

The Committee was informed of the recent work of the ESC, including progress on the Local Flood Risk strategy and the receipt of a presentation of the Energy Resilience Plan, which they requested to be annually updated on its progress.

Updates were also provided on the task groups set up through the ESC, including the endorsement of the conclusions of the Highways and Steetscene Task Group, the Public Transport Review Task Group discussing the options being developed for a forthcoming public consultation, and agreeing the membership and terms of reference of the Resident Engagement Task Group. The Waste Task Group would also reconvene to consider the impact of the reduction of opening hours of recycling centres, green waste collection and potentially details of overspends.

Health Select Committee (HSC)

The Committee was informed of the recent work of the HSC, including a recent workshop to improve relationships with partners and how to focus with those partners on important local issues, and working with the ESC in relation to the Public Transport Task Group and the impact of emissions on health but also encouragement of increased cycling and walking routes.

Children's Select Committee (CSC)

The Committee was informed of the recent work of the CSC, including a focus on family planning and support services which would be considered by Cabinet in December 2015, an update on the school places strategy as well requesting endorsement of a Rapid Scrutiny Exercise on the retender of the children's services contract. The Committee sought details of the bids for the new contract and requested the Chairman and Vice-Chairman identify if there were any issues with the procurement process that should be scrutinised further.

The Committee was also updated on the recent Ofsted Inspection of Children's Services, where there were no instances identified of children at risk, and Ofsted had been impressed at the level of Member engagement with the service. The rating received had been as 'requiring improvement', which had previously been the 'satisfactory' rating, an improvement from the last inspection. The Committee endorsed comments thanking all those within Children's Services for their efforts, particularly during the inspection period, for the significant improvements that had been achieved.

The Committee also received updates on the task groups of the CSC, including the ongoing Child Sexual Exploitation Task Group, and the upcoming School Improvement Strategy Task Group.

Resolved:

- 1) **To note the results of the 2015 Ofsted inspection of services for children in need of help and protection, children looked after and care leavers, and how the areas for improvement will be addressed.**
- 2) **To thank all officers involved for their hard work preparing for and during the inspection and for delivering the improvements achieved.**
- 3) **To endorse the set up of a Rapid Scrutiny Exercise regarding the retender of the Children's Services Contract.**

96 **Management Committee Task Group Updates**

Report of the Financial Planning Task Group (FPTG)

The Chairman of the Financial Planning Task Group, Councillor Glenis Ansell, provided a written update on the recent activity of the task group and to request any additional activity the Committee felt appropriate. Details were provided of overspends in the libraries and communications and communities budgets, as well as improvements achieved with the management and monitoring of agency and consultant budgets. The Committee was also informed of the completion of the restructure of the procurement service, which was now more centralised and controlled.

The Committee discussed the update, seeking details of overspends and noting that work was needed to encourage and assist smaller local firms to be able to compete for council contracts in order to provide good service and value.

The Committee also received a request to add an additional member to the Task Group.

Resolved:

To appoint Councillor Jeff Osborn to the Financial Planning Task Group.

Report of the Military Civilian Integration Partnership (MCIP) Task Group

The Management Committee established a task group last November in response to the MCIP being a key action in the Council's Business Plan 2013-17. Due to the size and complexity of the Programme, early work by the Task Group involved scoping where it should focus its attention in order to add value to the current Partnership discussions. In its report to the Management Committee in January this year this was agreed as being *to identify any risks and opportunities presented by the MCIP that are relevant to Wiltshire Council services and priorities*. This will have included the implications for the Council of the Army re-basing workstream of the Programme.

The Task Group regularly updated the Committee throughout the year and provided a written interim report to this meeting. Councillor Alan Hill, Chairman of the Task Group explained that the report focused on the outcome of the Task Group's meeting of 28 October in which it acknowledged the efforts being made locally, the pending peer review and identified a number of issues that it recommended needed addressing based on the discussions and evidence provided to date.

The Committee then heard from Councillor Chris Williams, Cabinet Portfolio Holder for Campuses and Area Boards who was in attendance representing the Executive, along with the Associate Director of Economy and Planning. They felt that there was not enough clarity in the report between the overall Programme and the Army re-basing workstream which therefore lead to some confusion over the evidence under consideration.

Following debate, the Committee recognised that an opportunity for further consideration was needed before it could take an informed view.

Resolved

- 1) To confirm the appointment of the Chairman of the Task Group as a representative of the Council's overview and scrutiny function on the peer review (as previously reported in July) – noting that the review is now not scheduled until Spring 2016.**
- 2) To note the issues raised by the Task Group in the report at paragraphs 14-18 and ask the Executive to respond to these in writing to the Task Group in time for it to report further to the Management Committee at its next meeting on 5 January 2016 based on the areas for review it had previously agreed as set out in paragraph 5 of the report.**

Campus Governance Task Group

The Chairman of the Campus Governance Task Group, Councillor Christine Crisp, presented a written update on the recent activity. It was noted that the diverse operations and characters of the community areas presented a challenge in developing a core structure of governance to be adapted as necessary, but that the group had visited the first operational campus and were focusing on key requirements, governmental and financial, that would apply across all areas and how this would need to be managed.

Review of Local Enterprise Partnership (LEP) Task Group

The Chairman of the Task Group, Councillor Alan Hill, provided details of forthcoming meetings, expressing the hope that engagement with Swindon and the LEP would improve, but that work was now progressing following the change of membership from Swindon Borough Council.

It was noted that Councillor Simon Killane was no longer a member of the Task Group and a replacement would be sought in the usual way from an expression

of interest notification to all non-executive councillors. The outcome would be reported to the next meeting for endorsement.

97 Scrutiny Councillor Learning and Development Programme Update

The Overview and Scrutiny Manager provided a brief update on the Councillor Learning and Development Programme, with the next session to be held on 16 November 2015 on questioning, listening and chairing skills. The first session had been in relation to health scrutiny issues, followed by one on decision-tracking and financial monitoring with good attendance and positive feedback. The Councillor Development Group was also happy with the outcome to date.

Further reports would follow as more sessions were held.

98 South West Scrutiny and Health Scrutiny Network - Update

The written update in the agenda was noted, and the Chairman provided additional details of the regional conference, which included reviewing recent scrutiny successes across the region, the impact of staffing changes, whether council's needed to be more entrepreneurial when raising income, and how to improve core scrutiny skills.

An update on the impact of devolution proposals was also provided, with a proposal to central government that council scrutiny functions be involved in approving any new governance arrangements, however it was not certain the suggestion would be taken up.

Resolved:

To note the update.

99 Reporting news on national policy and legislation to OS committees

The Chairman and Vice-Chairman of the Children's Select Committee, Councillors Jon Hubbard and Jacqui Lay, had requested as detailed in the agenda that Select Committees consider including arrangements to ensure they are kept aware of changes to national policy and legislation that could impact their work.

The Committee were informed the Children's Select Committee had operated such a system for some time, receiving reports from senior management summarising key points from central government, allowing questions on the impact of those changes and shape the forward plan accordingly.

It was recognised that the Children's Select Committee had principally only one council service to receive updates from, but Councillors Hubbard and Lay felt that such a system was manageable for the other committees as well, and would provide additional benefit to their work.

Resolved:

For each Select Committee to note the suggestion to include updates on national policy and legislative changes and consider whether to do something similar.

100 Date of Next Meeting

The date of the next meeting was confirmed as 5 January 2016.

101 Urgent Items

There were no urgent items.

(Duration of meeting: 10.30 am - 1.15 pm)

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