

OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE

DRAFT MINUTES OF THE OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE MEETING HELD ON 18 OCTOBER 2012 AT COUNCIL CHAMBER, MONKTON PARK, CHIPPENHAM.

Present:

Cllr Trevor Carbin (Chairman), Cllr Nigel Carter, Cllr Tony Deane (Vice Chairman), Cllr Peter Doyle, Cllr Mike Hewitt, Cllr Alan Hill, Cllr Jon Hubbard, Cllr Peter Hutton, Cllr Ricky Rogers, Cllr Judy Rooke, Cllr Jonathon Seed and Cllr Carole Soden

Also Present:

Cllr Allison Bucknell, Cllr John Noeken and Cllr Fleur de Rhé-Philippe

25 Apologies

Apologies were received from Cllr Christopher Newbury.

26 Minutes of the Previous Meeting

The minutes of the previous meeting held on 6 September were approved and signed with the following amendment:

Item 21 – Future Call-In Procedures

Additional Resolution:

That the decision of the Overview & Scrutiny Management Committee in relation to the call in procedure be considered by the Constitution Focus Group.

27 Declarations of Interest

No declarations of interest were received.

28 Chairman's Announcements

There were no Chairman's Announcements.

29 **Public Participation**

There was no public participation.

30 **Job Creation and Economic Development**

The Cabinet member for Economic Development and Strategic Planning was in attendance to present the report on Job Creation and Economic Development which provided details on the work being undertaken by the Economy and Regeneration Service, including the broad range of initiatives and projects underway.

These initiatives included the planned creation of 1,000 apprenticeship opportunities by July 2013. This figure did not include those on work experience.

A decision on government grant funding of £9.4m would be made by the Local Enterprise Partnership (LEP). It was noted that bids received to date included work at Bowerhill, Union Square Swindon and Castledown, with a further bid for Porton expected. The outcome of the submitted bids was expected at the end of the year.

In noting the bids made, smaller developments would have the ability to apply for grants via other funding routes.

In questioning the number of apprenticeship placements for projects funded by the authority, it was confirmed that the Council now asked that all major contracts incorporate appropriate provision. Further work was underway to develop the strategy.

The Committee were complimentary of the report provided. In particular the regeneration work underway at Lyneham was recognised as being of importance to the economy of North Wiltshire. The benefit of area board involvement was also discussed with a request that they be encouraged to consider how they could further support activity along with trade associations within their respective areas.

In thanking both officers and attending Cabinet members it was resolved as follows:

Resolved:

- 1) That the Committee welcomed the positive and encouraging report about broad ranging activities the Council was involved in to support economic development and job creation;**
- 2) That Area Boards be encouraged to consider what steps they can take to support such activity; and**

3) That a further report on progress would be presented to the Committee in April 2013.

31 Information Services Technology Plan - Cloud

The Committee at its meeting held on 6 September considered an update to the ICT Technology Plan and resolved that, as lead member of the former ICT Task Group, Cllr Nigel Carter would meet with the Cabinet member for Resources and relevant officers to further review and identify areas for potential scrutiny involvement.

During the meeting three areas of interest were identified for the Committees consideration, namely SAP, Sharepoint and Cloud. A report on the first two areas would be presented to the Committee at its meeting in December.

The Cabinet member for Resources and ICT Programme Manager were in attendance to present the report on Cloud and to answer any questions arising.

In presenting the report the Cabinet member confirmed that an already good working relationship between Wiltshire Council and Microsoft was being further developed to ensure a strong strategic partnership was in place to deliver cloud services and other key solutions.

The partnership approach would include the formation of a joint co-located team to leverage Microsoft Office 365 technical expertise and Wiltshire Council infrastructure knowledge. Following deployment of Office 365 to a pilot group the full roll-out was now underway with approximately two thirds of users now migrated. Full migration was expected by December 2012.

In noting that a cloud project had been initiated to introduce a hosted web based portal and Smartphone app to allow reporting of issues from members of the public, a presentation on the scope to cover Streetscene issues such as Street Litter and Fly Tipping was given.

The presentation included details on how the application would look from a front end perspective as well as details on accessibility of the data, including statistical information, from a storage point of view.

The Committee welcomed the information provided but raised concern on security of the app. Clarification was provided that any problems were being identified and would be addressed prior to full launch.

Although there was still a requirement for the Council to run its own servers at present, it was acknowledged that the number of servers required had been reduced and would continue to do so, with a project saving of £1.3m to date. A further increase in savings was expected next year.

In noting that the supplier of the hosted solution was My Council Services, the question on why this particular provider had been used was raised. Although other reporting applications with a range of attributes had been considered, (including Fix my Streets and Love Clean Streets) My Council Services had been identified as the most appropriate supplier.

Although the implementation of the app was likely to result in a reduction of telephone reports, this option of reporting would still be available for those members of the public wishing to use this service. Members were also mindful of the heightened public expectations that would result from instant reporting and the need for services to respond accordingly.

The Committee also discussed the benefits of a council telephone directory app which was currently available via 'Good'. In noting that this app would no longer work following migration to Cloud all efforts were being made to ensure 'Active Synch' the replacement app would work in the same way.

In concluding debate the Chairman thanked both the Cabinet member and officers for the report.

Resolved:

- 1) To note the progress and achievements made to date on the Cloud Programme.**
- 2) To note that reports on SAP and Sharepoint will be considered by the Committee at its next meeting on 13 December.**

32 Procurement Service update

The Committee identified the Procurement Strategy as an area of work that would require further overview following a review of priorities. Although a full report on the work of the new Procurement Board in implementing the Strategy would be presented at the Committee's meeting in December, an initial update on the formation of the Board and work undertaken to date was presented for the Committee's consideration.

The Cabinet member introduced the Interim Head of Procurement to present the report. In doing so clarification was made that the Procurement team continued to develop category strategies which included a move away from the service reactive approach currently undertaken. Centralisation would be required with a realignment of category codes within the SAP3 project update.

The Procurement and Commissioning Board had been established to ensure the best commercial options were achieved this included consideration of outline business cases and Opportunity Assessment reports. Core membership of the Board included the Director of Finance, Corporate Director, Cabinet Member for Resources, Head of Procurement, Service Director for Law and

Governance, Service Director for HR and Organisational Development and Trade Union representative.

The issue of double-accounting was being addressed and a pathway agreed with a revision of contract provision rules. This included managing contract performance of contract service managers via monthly reporting to Corporate Finance.

Upon further questioning the Cabinet member for Resources was unable to provide clarity on the likely proportion of double-accounting taking place. However he was encouraged by the work being undertaken by officers within the procurement unit to address the issue and thanked the Committee for its support in helping to bed-in the new rules and procedures.

The Chairman thanked the Cabinet member and attending officers for the report and reminded the Committee that a further Procurement report would be presented to the Committee at its next meeting in December 2012.

Resolved:

- 1) To thank the Cabinet member and officers for the update report; and**
- 2) That the Committee would receive a full report on the work of the new Procurement Board in implementing the Procurement Strategy in December 2012.**

33 Task Group Update

The Committee noted the written updates on Task Group activity as circulated with the agenda and the following additional information:

Budget Task Group

Clarification was provided that the Group was in the process of arranging a date for its next meeting.

Campus and Operational Delivery Programme (CAOD) Task Group

The Group met on 11 October to consider proposals for the second tranche of campus developments covering Calne, Cricklade, Pewsey and Tisbury. In conclusion members were satisfied with the process that had been followed, including the make-up and method of calculating the financial figures for the proposed campus projects. This would be presented to Cabinet at its meeting to be held on 23 October.

The Group agreed that future meeting dates would now take place on an ad hoc basis as and when required.

Traded Services Task Group

The Group has yet to arrange its next meeting but the Chairman and Scrutiny Officer would be meeting with the Service Director to discuss content.

Member Support in the Locality Task Group

Cllr Jonathon Seed confirmed that the Group had met on 15 October where discussion included a recommendation for the Monitoring Officer to 'dismiss' complaints rather than 'take no further action' in relation to the new Standards Framework.

The Group also felt that greater clarity was needed on the rules surrounding voting where councillors may have a dual-hatted role, (i.e. as town councillor and member of a charity board for example) and that greater clarity to town and parish councils would be of benefit in relation to members allowances and declarations of interest.

The attending Monitoring Officer confirmed that these issues would to be discussed at the Standards Committee on 24 October and that draft guidance would be prepared and circulated to town and parish councils.

34 Scrutiny Representation on Project Boards and Groups

Verbal updates on Project Board activity were provided by the respective scrutiny representatives as detailed below:

Staffing Management Executive Board

Cllr Ricky Rogers confirmed that on 17 September 2012 CLT had agreed to cease work on the current review of administration support roles and replace with new project to introduce a 'Customer & Business Support Job Family Project' in order to create a more flexible workforce. This new family was expected to be complete by December 2013.

Communication and engagement with managers and staff would be undertaken to gather information and comments regarding the introduction of the job family.

Wiltshire Online Project Board

Cllr George Jeans confirmed that the contract following the local 'Call-Off' tendering exercise had not yet been awarded but was expected shortly. The aim of the contract remained with Wiltshire having internet access to a minimum specification of 2mb by 2015, with an 85% coverage across the region for superfast broadband of 25mb.

Constitution Focus Group

Cllr Seed confirmed that the Group had not yet met since his appointment as scrutiny representative.

35 **Health Scrutiny Workshop - 3 October 2012**

The Health Select Committee held a workshop on 3 October 2012 to give members the opportunity to hear from senior representatives from across the health and social care arena on priorities and challenges faced with an expected outcome to identify topics of potential inclusion on the future work programme.

The Chairman of the Health Select Committee confirmed that the event had been well attended by both members of the Committee and health partners alike. A full report with actions would be presented to the Health Select Committee at its next meeting for endorsement.

However in the meantime the Chairman of the Health Select Committee sought endorsement to establish a Clinical Commissioning Group (CCG) Task Group to enable early appointment and scoping to take place. This would be presented to the Health Select Committee at its next meeting for endorsement.

Resolved:

To note the successful event and endorse the establishment of a CCG Task Group.

36 **Forward Work Programme**

The Committee noted the Forward Work Programme and additional information provided as detailed below:

The **Dementia Task Group** had now completed its work and the Task Group disbanded with its final report being considered by the Health Select Committee on 15 November.

The **Member Support in the Locality Task Group** would now meet only as and when required.

Further invitations would be circulated for membership of the **Joint Air Quality Task Group** to members of the Health Select Committee. Once membership had been agreed the first meeting would be arranged.

37 **Task Group Protocol Refresh**

A review of the Task Group protocol was requested noting that the current version had been in existence since pre-unitary.

Although the protocol did not form part of the Council's Constitution, following debate it was agreed that the Constitution Focus Group would be requested to consider the protocol at its next meeting.

Resolved:

That officers refresh the Task Group protocol in consultation with members and the Constitution Focus Group and that a revised version be considered by the Committee at its next meeting in December.

38 Urgent Items

There were no urgent items for consideration.

39 Date of next meeting

13 December 2012

40 Exclusion of the Press and Public

The Committee agreed in accordance with Section 100A(4) of the Local Government Act 1972 to exclude the public from the meeting for the business specified in Item Number 41 because it was likely that if members of the public were present there would be a disclosure to them of exempt information as defined in paragraph 3 of Part I of Schedule 12A to the Act and the public interest in withholding the information outweighed the public interest in disclosing the information to the public.

41 Agency and Temporary Staff

The Committee was asked to consider the Opportunity Assessment report and to note that the report in relation to the award of the new contract for the centralisation of contract and agency staff to be considered by Cabinet on 23 October has now been deferred to November. It was understood that this was due in part to the need to secure further additional information.

The Cabinet member for Resources and Interim Head of Procurement were in attendance to present the report and to answer any questions arising.

In presenting the report clarification was provided that the spend with Comensura was approximately £9m for the financial year 2010/11 and £8.4m for 2011/12. The current contractual obligations include a Framework agreement with Dorset County Council which was due to expire on 16 November 2012.

As part of the review of contract 5 key providers were identified as potentially offering benefits with a mixed range of models considered.

In considering the options the Committee was also asked to note that the recruitment freeze currently in place would impact on agency and temporary staff. As a result the anticipated savings to be achieved should the preferred contract option be taken could be reduced.

Ensuing debate included the need to ensure that any potential decrease in staffing levels did not result in an increase in agency staff levels noting that costs of agency staff had decreased year on year to date.

The Chairman concluded discussion by thanking the Cabinet member and officers for the update and congratulated the Department on the work undertaken to date to review future contractual arrangements for agency and temporary staff.

Resolved:

- 1) That the Committee supported the proposed recommendation to move forward to the procurement stage on the proposed service model; and**
- 2) That further updates are presented to the Committee at appropriate stages.**

(Duration of meeting: 10.30 am - 12.50 pm)

The Officer who has produced these minutes is Sharon Smith, of Democratic Services, direct line (01225) 718378, e-mail sharonl.smith@wiltshire.gov.uk

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