

KENNET DISTRICT COUNCIL

OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY MANAGEMENT BOARD

Minutes of the meeting of the Overview and Scrutiny Management Board held in the Council Chamber, Browfort, Devizes on Tuesday, 5th December, 2006 at 2.15 pm

PRESENT: Councillor C.P.G. Hoddinott - Chairman

Councillor N.D. Carter
Councillor Mrs. J.K. Coombe
Councillor R.T. Parsons
Councillor J.D. Percy-Caldwell

Councillor Mrs. N.G. Rawlins
Councillor P.N. Veasey
Councillor Mrs. P.M. Winchcombe
Councillor A.S. Wood

APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE:

Councillor B.G. Ashley

38. MINUTES

The minutes of the meeting of the Board held on 10th October, 2006, were approved as a correct record and signed by the Chairman.

39. DISCLOSURES OF INTEREST

There were none.

40. CORPORATE FINANCE SCRUTINY SUB-COMMITTEE MINUTES

The Board received and considered the minutes of the Corporate Finance Scrutiny Sub-Committee held on 13th November, 2006.

Members noted the reported savings achieved through the retendering of the Council's insurances and questioned whether the retendering process should happen more frequently.

Members questioned the conditions under which the concessionary fares scheme was administered within the District.

RESOLVED

THAT the minutes of the meeting of the Corporate Finance Scrutiny Sub-Committee held on 13th November, 2006, be noted.

Note: The conditions of use for the concessionary fare scheme will be supplied to members through the weekly Members Bulletin.

41. THE USE OF RESOURCES TASK GROUP

The Chairman of the task group introduced a short paper and updated the Board on the work carried out on the review of sickness monitoring. The Board was informed that a final report on sickness monitoring would be presented at its meeting in February.

RESOLVED

THAT the report of the Scrutiny team be noted.

42. WORKLOAD

The Vice Chairman explained to the Board that the agenda item was seeking to bring forward a review of the investment policy of the Council from the 2007/8 municipal year into the workload of the current year, in order to utilise the experience of the present Council, prior to elections in 2007.

Members debated the most efficient way of carry out a review within the current financial year and the terms of reference that would need to be set for such a review.

RESOLVED

THAT

(1) An Investment Policy Review Task Group be set up consisting of five Councillors, Councillors Carter, Hoddinott, Parsons, Percy-Caldwell and Mrs. Winchcombe.

(2) That the Task Group examine the Council's current investment policy, the investment policies of other Councils with a view to assessing high risk and risk averse approaches, seek to identify best practice and receive advice from independent investment brokers.

(3) The task group should bring an interim report to the February 2007 meeting and should seek to present a final report to the April 2007 meeting.

(4) The first meetings of the group to be held on 11th January and 22nd January, 2007.

43. ACTION PLANNING MONITORING

The Corporate Services Manager introduced the report and reminded Members that the Overview and Scrutiny Management Board was responsible for the monitoring of action plans arising out of best value reviews, and that the Corporate Action and Improvement Plan was the document approved by Council that dealt with the outcomes of

such reviews and also internal service reviews and legislative changes. Members requested that future documents dealing with action planning monitoring be clearly cross-referenced to assist Members to navigate through the documents.

Members expressed concern that it would be difficult for the Council to maintain an affordable homes strategy if central government continually imposed differing policies upon Councils. Members also debated the Council's crime and community safety Policies, the need for a thorough training plan for Members after the May 2007 elections and the Council's Recycling Policy.

RESOLVED

THAT

- (1) That the Environmental Health and Protection Services Manager be requested to attend a future meeting of the Board to explain the performance of the crime and community safety function within Kennet.
- (2) That the Housing Services Manager be requested to attend a future meeting of the Board to explain the Council's performance in meeting the housing strategy.
- (3) That the Overview and Scrutiny Management Board meeting in February debate the training needs for Councillors following the May 2007 elections.

44. PERFORMANCE MONITORING REPORT - QUARTER TWO

The Corporate Services Manager drew Members attention to key performance indicators contained within the report, in particular the fact that the Crime and Community Safety Performance Indicator was performing badly. She also drew Members attention to suggested performance indicators for de-criminalised parking that had been requested by the previous meeting of the Board.

Members debated the suggested performance indicators for de-criminalised parking, crime and community safety and home energy surveys.

RESOLVED

THAT

- (1) That the Board request more in depth figures on crime and community safety.
- (2) That the Board request complete details concerning the

percentage return of household energy efficiency forms.

- (3) That the performance indicators for de-criminalised parking be
- (a) percentage of tickets paid within 14 days
 - (b) percentage of tickets appealed
 - (c) percentage of successful appeals
 - (d) number of visits to KDC car parks
 - (e) details on where offence tickets have been issued to identify parking hot spots

Chairman
13th February, 2007