



OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE

MINUTES of a MEETING held at COUNTY HALL, TROWBRIDGE on 12 JUNE 2008.

PRESENT: Mr JB Osborn (Chairman), Mr BE Dalton, Dr J English, Mr P Fuller, Mr A Molland, Mr RT Rogers, Mrs P Rugg, Mr AJ Trotman, and Mr R While.

- 87. **Apologies** Mr AN Deane and Mrs JH Rooke
- 88. **Election of Chairman** Mr JB Osborn was elected.
- 89. **Election of Vice-Chairman** Mr A Molland was elected.
- 90. **Minutes of Previous Meeting**

Resolved:

To confirm and sign the minutes of the meeting held on 27 March 2008

- 91. **Chairman's Announcements** The Vice-Chairman and scrutiny officers reported on the 6th Annual Conference of the Centre for Public Scrutiny held in London on 10 June.
- 92. **Members' Interests** Tony Trotman declared a personal interest in respect of the following item due to his mother residing in one of OSJCT's homes.
- 93. **The Orders of St John Care Trust Annual Service Review 2007-08**
A covering report by the Director of Adult and Community Services was circulated along with the annual review report by the Trust.

Nigel Read, Chief Executive supported by other representatives from the Trust presented their review report and highlighted the continuing success in delivering the contract, along with the investment made to enhance and modernise services. James Cawley, Interim Assistant Director confirmed the

current level of performance as evidenced by the report and the CSCI ratings, and referred to the potential implications of the Accommodation Strategy for Older People.

The members made a number of comments and asked questions on matters including staff turnover, use of pets, latest position on the review of day care, respite provision, role of the Housing Corporation, and capital costs.

Resolved:

- (1) To thank the Trust for the presentation and report on the annual review.**
- (2) To acknowledge the level of performance of the Trust under the contract and the monitoring arrangements via the bi-monthly locality contract review meetings and the quarterly Contract Monitoring Group.**
- (3) To ask again that year on year comparative data for income and expenditure by localities be included in future reports (page 14 table).**
- (4) To give notice that, subject to the new Council, a different approach to scrutiny of major contracts/partners may be adopted to enable more detailed consideration to be given to performance and innovation in a smaller setting.**
- (5) To receive future reports on the Accommodation Strategy for Older People, Day Care and Respite.**
- (6) To note that the future implications on the capital programme will be monitored through the Budget Scrutiny Task Group**
- (7) To ask the Cabinet Member to take into account the views expressed by this Committee in approving the Trust's annual service review.**

94. Community and Voluntary Transport Funding

A report by the Director of Environmental Services was circulated. This item was requested by the Committee during its consideration of the Transport Service Inspection Action Plan in January.

Alan Feist, Assistant Director introduced the report and highlighted the changing position in respect of funding, LTP arrangements and the role of Community First.

Members made a number of comments and asked questions on matters including the high costs of supporting rural services, the potential impact of the current review of voluntary sector funding and the member working group on rural services, the ability to ringfence transport revenue and considerations during transition to One Council.

Resolved:

- (1) To thank officers for the report and express concern over the serious funding pressures, especially now in the light of increasing costs.**
- (2) In being aware of the funding risks associated with moving to One Council, to expect that consideration is taking place within relevant workstreams in order to**
 - (i) safeguard the current level of service provision during transition and;**
 - (ii) support its future development in recognition of the LAA ambition for Stronger and More Resilient Communities.**
- (3) To note that the outcome of the review of voluntary sector funding mentioned in para 11 of the report would be considered by the Management Committee in September following its request made at the previous meeting when considering the report on Link Schemes.**
- (4) To make the Joint Overview and Scrutiny Committee Transition Board and the Rural Services Advisory Group aware of the above issues and concerns.**

95. Implementation of the Traffic Management Act

A report by the Director of Environmental Services is circulated. This item was also requested by the Committee during its consideration of the Transport Service Inspection Action Plan in January.

Joanne Neal, Network Manager, introduced the report explaining the various components of the new powers, their implications and the timetable for implementation.

Members made comments and asked questions on a number of matters including the Network Management Action Plan, performance measures, parking enforcement fees, training of officers, line painting and transition arrangements for One Council.

Resolved:

- (1) To thank the officers for the report and welcome the additional powers given to authorities to better manage the highways network, parking enforcement and co-ordination of street works.**
- (2) To ask that the Network Management action plan is submitted to the Management Committee when available.**

- (3) To note the discussions taking place with neighbouring authorities on the street works permit scheme, and the potential option of a joint south west scheme which may ease the additional administrative burden.
- (4) To note that the members were informed of the outcome of the annual coring programme.
- (5) To recommend that a transition progress report on the application of the civil parking enforcement for the new Council is brought to the July meeting of the Joint Overview and Scrutiny Transition Board, including the issue of residents parking permits applied in certain areas and the use of enforcement revenue.

96. **Budget Scrutiny Task Group Final Report**

The annual report of the Task Group covering the overview of the 2008-09 budget setting process and outcome of the 2007-08 budget monitoring activities was circulated.

Tony Molland, Chairman of the Task Group presented the report and explained the basis for the recommendations. Members made a number of comments including future input from community area boards and the potential for ringfencing of income in certain services.

Resolved:

- (1) To thank the Chairman and members of the Task Group for their monitoring activities and work in reviewing the 2008-09 budget setting process, and monitoring activities.
- (2) To endorse the findings and conclusions in the report for submission to the Executive as appropriate, and approve the 2 recommendations specifically identified for the Management Committee in respect of the retention of the annual joint scrutiny meeting and expanding the Task Group's terms of reference to include the capital budget.
- (3) To forward a copy of the report to the Centre for Public Scrutiny and the authors of the guide "On the Money – The Scrutiny of Local Government Finance" and invite comment on the arrangements adopted in Wiltshire CC.

97. **Framework Policy for the Evaluation, Approval and Registration of Partnerships – Progress Report**

The Committee considered a progress report at the last meeting and expressed disappointment at the over the delay in putting together the partnerships register originally intended to be available for December 2007. The Committee recommended the Cabinet Member with the support of the Corporate Procurement Board to pursue completion of the register as a matter of urgency. Deadlines were initially extended to end of March and again until end of May.

In response to a question at last Council, it was reported that to date departments had identified 61 partnerships, 21 of which have been reviewed and loaded onto the Partnership Register. Of these 6 were identified as high risk and a list was tabled at the meeting. This left 40 reviews outstanding and yet to be loaded to the Register, although none of these were in the high risk category.

Resolved:

- (1) To express the Committee's disappointment in the further delay in completing the register of partnerships.**
- (2) From those identified to date as high risk, to include in the Committee's work programme the reviews of the Wiltshire Community Safety and Drugs Partnership and Wiltshire and Swindon Archives for future scrutiny.**
- (3) To note that the Corporate Procurement Unit was continuing to work with departments to encourage and support them in meeting their responsibilities in completing reviews of all partnerships by 31 July 2008.**

98. Advertising Services Contract

The Committee were reminded that the Chairman, Vice-Chairman and Tony Deane undertook a rapid scrutiny exercise in respect of the proposed decision to terminate the current contract and make alternative arrangements.

In response to a question at last Council on this matter, the Committee received an update on the key issues of concern identified by rapid scrutiny. In addition it was reported that as the services provided under the framework contract remain poor, it was intended to continue with the delegated decision to terminate the contract with the present provider.

Resolved:

- (1) To note the progress made with the actions identified by scrutiny at a meeting with the Cabinet Member on 25 February, and the intention now to proceed with the delegated decision.**
- (2) To give notice that pending receipt of the revised delegated decision report scrutiny members may wish to meet further with the Cabinet Member in order to fully satisfy themselves about the actions taken.**

99. Local Area Agreement

It was reported that following the request made by the Leader at last Council, the Chairman and Vice-Chairman met with the Assistant Director of Performance and Risk and scrutiny officers on 28 May to review the latest intended targets for inclusion in the LAA.

Comments made included the relatively limited reward grant for achieving agreed targets, the clearer responsibilities placed on our partners and the

historic nature of some of the baseline information. These and other comments were covered in a note to the Leader supporting her intention to sign the LAA for submission to Government by 31 May.

Resolved: To endorse the action taken.

100. 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 28 March, 25 April and 30 May rotating the meeting venue around the various councils in the County. The JOSTB papers were circulated to Management Committee members, posted on the web and the minutes reported to full Council.

The main focus has been through the work of the Joint Board's task groups reviewing the following priority transition areas:

Development Control – WWDC
Waste – WCC
Housing – SDC
Community Area Boards – WCC
Customer Access – NWDC

It had become increasingly clear that the majority of services would not be transformed in advance of the new council and in some instances could take several years. Following a request made by WWDC, the Joint Board had called for a progress report to the next meeting on the work being done under transition to amalgamate leisure centres. The Board would shortly begin work on developing proposals for overview and scrutiny arrangements for the new council by looking at current good practice and would seek external consultancy as appropriate.

There have been a number of membership changes to district council representation on the Joint Board following annual council meetings. A review of County Council representation was also needed.

Resolved:

(1) To note progress on scrutiny of the transition to One Council.

(2) To re-appoint current members Tony Molland, Jeff Osborn, Ricky Rogers and Ian West and replace Robert Hall with Chris Humphries.

101. Work Programme

A copy of the latest version of the Management Committee's work programme was circulated.

The Chairman took the opportunity to report on a recent request for a rapid scrutiny exercise on a proposed delegated decision to contract support work for the Focus Project designed to implement changes to the care management processes in adult social care. He updated the Committee on the arrangements for scrutinising Real Time Passenger Information following the

decision at the last meeting, and mentioned a deferment in the consideration of CareFirst.

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 the above reports of the Chairman on various scrutiny exercises.**
- (3) To note the following activities taking place under the direction of the Management Committee and reappoint the members listed.**

<u>Activity</u>	<u>Topic</u>	<u>Members</u>	<u>Start Date</u>	<u>Next Meeting</u>	<u>End Date</u>
Task Groups	Performance	Mr Newbury (Ch) Mr Osborn Mrs Soden Mrs Taylor Mr While	Nov 02	TBC	Standing
	Budget	Mr Molland (Ch) Brig Hall Mr Coleman Mr Rogers Mr Moss Mr Osborn	Sept 01	14 July	Standing
	Change Management	Mr Deane (Ch) Mrs Chettleburgh Mr A Davis Mr Moss Mrs Rugg Mr Doyle - NWDC	June 05	4 June	Standing
Procurement Project Boards	Property Services	Mr Henning	Sept 05	-	Ongoing
	Adult Care (including OSJ Care Services)	Dr English	Jan 06	-	Ongoing
Specific Interests	Street Management	Mr West	Sept 07	-	Ongoing
	Cycle Lanes	Dr English	Sept 07	-	Ongoing

(Duration of Meeting: 10.30am – 13.30pm)

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