



OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE

MINUTES of a MEETING held at COUNTY HALL, TROWBRIDGE on 26 MARCH 2009

PRESENT: Mr JB Osborn (Chairman), Mr E Clark, Mr AJ Trotman, Mr AN Deane, Dr JM English, Mr RT Rogers and Mrs JH Rooke.

9. **Apologies** Mr A Molland, Mrs ME Groom and Mr RS While.

10. **Minutes of Previous Meeting**

Resolved: To confirm and sign the minutes of the meeting held on 15 January 2009

11. **Members Interest**

Mr Trotman declared a personal interest regarding the FOCUS project.

12. **FOCUS Project – Update**

The Committee were reminded that this matter was the subject of a rapid scrutiny exercise in June last year with a further meeting proposed in October to review the outcome of the proof of concept stage particularly in respect of defining more clearly the benefits to be realised. The members involved in the exercise were Jeff Osborn, Tony Molland and Andrew Davis. The proof of concept stage was subsequently delayed by 2 months to allow for more communication with staff but implementation of the project would still continue between July and October 2009. The members were advised of the delay.

A report by the Corporate Director of Community Services was circulated and was presented to the Committee by Sian Walker, Service Director. In doing so she commented that the consultation had gone well and that it would be a phased roll-out between July and October.

Members asked a number of questions on issues including the transfer of knowledge from Charteris consultants, the application of Lean systems, reporting against Performance Indicators and benefit realisation. Members felt it was important to ensure that there was a

balance between customer focus and savings and that staff have the necessary expertise to advise and support customers appropriately. It was also important that efficient working relationships with the Health Services were maintained and duplication over assessments eliminated.

In response to another question, the Director of Resources referred to the outside interest being shown in the developments taking place in Wiltshire regarding business systems.

Resolved:

- (1) To thank Sian Walker, Service Director Operations, for presenting the report and for attending the meeting and answering questions.
- (2) To receive a progress report after October when the project has been implemented.
- (3) To note that an update report on CareFirst had already been requested.

13. **Transport Accessibility to Health Services**

The Committee were reminded that it agreed to a recommendation from the Health Scrutiny Committee to undertake a review of transport accessibility to health services following work done by its Reforming Services Task Group. The review was undertaken by a rapid scrutiny exercise on 23 March involving Tony Deane, Mollie Groom, John English and Pat Rugg.

Tony Deane presented the report of the meeting which had been circulated. He highlighted the main issue of the lack of consultation between the PCT and the Council's transport planners over proposed service changes, and the resulting impact on the public.

Members asked a number of questions on issues including consultation with Area Boards and public transport services to the main acute facilities.

Resolved

- (1) To endorse the report of the rapid scrutiny exercise
- (2) To note that at pre-planning application stage, NHS Wiltshire commits to engaging with the Council's transport officers to discuss potential developments.
- (3) To recommend that NHS Wiltshire's 'access to healthcare' People's Voice questionnaire was sent to the Council's Head of Passenger Transport for comment in advance of circulation.

- (4) To recommend that NHS Wiltshire report the results of this questionnaire to the Health Overview and Scrutiny Committee

14. **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 23 January, 17 February (special) and 27 February. The JOSTB papers were circulated to Management Committee members, posted on the web and the minutes reported to full Council.

In addition to holding the IE to account through the receipt of the Towards One Council Progress report and its minutes, the main focus has been through the work of the Joint Board's task groups.

Recent activity included closer scrutiny of Audit Commission's Joint Direction of Travel for the Districts, the first year's budget for the new council, office rationalisation project, application of the staff appointments process, Executive member attendance at scrutiny meetings in the new council, and the outcome of the consultation on the new overview and scrutiny arrangements.

Resolved:

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

15. **Revised Terms of Reference – Joint Overview and Scrutiny Transitional Board**

It was reported that Members agreed at their last meeting to realign during the pre-election period the Joint Board under the Management Committee with continuing membership (ex-district members being co-opted) and similar powers subject to approval of revised terms of reference.

Resolved:

To approve the revised terms of reference as circulated.

16. **Work Programme**

The Committee considered the latest version of the Management Committee's work programme.

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 Cabinet Member's response circulated at the meeting to the Chairman's letter regarding the development of the Highways Network Management Plan and the Real Time Passenger Transport Information System.

- (3) To receive a report on the 12 month review of the implementation of the Museum Task Group's recommendations to the next meeting

(Duration of Meeting: 10.30 am – 12.15 pm)

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