

OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE

MINUTES OF THE OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE MEETING HELD ON 28 MARCH 2017 AT THE KENNET ROOM - COUNTY HALL, TROWBRIDGE BA14 8JN.

Present:

Cllr Glenis Ansell, Cllr Chuck Berry, Cllr Christine Crisp, Cllr Stewart Dobson, Cllr Howard Greenman, Cllr Alan Hill (Vice Chairman), Cllr Jon Hubbard, Cllr George Jeans, Cllr Simon Killane (Chairman), Cllr Gordon King, Cllr Jacqui Lay, Cllr Tony Trotman, Cllr John Walsh, Cllr Bridget Wayman and Cllr Ian Thorn (Substitute)

Also Present:

Cllr John Thomson and Cllr Philip Whitehead

28 Apologies

Apologies were received from Councillor Steve Oldrieve, who was substituted by Councillor Ian Thorn.

29 Minutes of the Previous Meeting

The minutes of the meetings held on 3 January, 1 February and 14 February 2017 were presented for consideration, and it was,

Resolved:

To approve and sign as a true and correct record.

30 Declarations of Interest

There were no declarations.

31 Chairman's Announcements

Councillor Simon Killane announced that as he was not standing in the May 2017 Unitary Elections, it would be his final meeting as Chairman of the Overview and Scrutiny Management Committee. He thanked the Committee for providing him the opportunity and paid tribute to the work of members and officers in developing the excellent level of scrutiny that had taken place.

The Vice-Chairman, Councillor Alan Hill, on behalf of the Committee thanked Councillor Killane for his service as Chairman, wishing him well in his future endeavours and praising his dedicated and assured chairmanship of a sensitive and vital service.

32 **Public Participation**

There were no questions or statements submitted.

33 **Management Committee Task Group Updates**

Updates were received regarding the Committee's tasks groups as follows:

Financial Planning Task Group – no meetings since the last update,

Swindon and Wiltshire Local Enterprise Partnership Task Group – The next meeting would take place on 5 April 2017 and it was recommended it continue in the next council to ensure the responsibilities of the LEP be monitored by scrutiny services in Swindon and Wiltshire.

MyWiltshire Task Group – The Task Group was still awaiting requested details of the project, which was more convoluted than originally anticipated, and work was needed to focus the activity appropriately.

Resolved:

To note the updates from the Task Groups.

34 **Report of the Military Civilian Integration Partnership (MCIP) / Army Basing Task Group**

The Committee received the report of the task group as included in the agenda, recommending additional scrutiny engagement continue. The Committee discussed how the task group could demonstrate it was adding value through its work to ensure both that lessons were learned for the various partners involved, and inform future processes.

A motion was moved by Councillor Alan Hill, seconded by Councillor Gordon King, and it was,

Resolved:

- 1) **There is a need to scrutinise the final Army Basing Peer Review report when published.**
- 2) **Scrutiny could have a valuable role to play in ensuring that lessons are learnt from Wiltshire Council's involvement in the initial army basing and applied to the arrival of future cohorts.**
- 3) **There may be an opportunity to scrutinise any commitment to military/civilian integration made in the council's next business plan.**

35 **Review of the work of Overview and Scrutiny - 2013-2017**

A report had been prepared for the Committee to reflect upon the activity undertaken by Overview and Scrutiny during the four years of the council 2013-2017. The report detailed key pieces of activity as well as potential topics for inclusion in future work programmes following the May 2017 Unitary Elections, as suggested by the select committees. The report also reviewed the effectiveness of Overview and Scrutiny, as well as analysis of discussion points raised at councillor workshops to review the legacy of the work undertaken.

The Committee discussed the comprehensive list of proposed activity, and how much the topics could or should be prioritised by the outgoing Management Committee to aid the incoming Management Committee, on top of the scheduled dates and other indicators as already included.

A motion was moved by Councillor Alan Hill, seconded by Councillor Christine Crisp to delegate to the Chairman and Vice-Chairman, in discussion with Chairman and Vice-Chairman of the Select Committees, to further prioritise the proposed legacy work to provide additional guidance to the incoming Management Committee, taking into account current council priorities. Following a vote the motion was lost.

Following agreement to defer recommendation five of the report until Minute 37, responding to the enquiry into local government scrutiny by the Department for Communities and Local Government, the remaining recommendations were moved by Councillor Simon Killane, seconded by Councillor Gordon King, and it was,

Resolved:

- 1) To thank all those councillors, partner organisations and officers who have positively contributed to the work of the select committees and in the effective delivery of the Overview and Scrutiny (OS) work programme;**
- 2) To acknowledge that the content of the report, including the key activities listed at Appendix A, demonstrates the significant contribution that OS is making to open and honest decision-making and to the overall good governance of the authority;**
- 3) To include the topics listed in Appendix B in the legacy report for the OS work programme of the new Council;**
- 4) To note the development areas identified at the OS Legacy workshop and ask Management Committee under the new Council to consider how they might be taken forward as appropriate;**
- 5) To note the delivery of the 4-year OS learning and development programme so far and ask Management Committee under the new Council to consider whether a review of the programme is required to**

ensure it remains appropriate and deliverable;

6) To note the next steps described in paragraphs [27 and 28](#) of the report.

36 Overview and Scrutiny Annual Report 2016-17

The Committee considered a draft annual report, produced in the format of previous years with summaries of key work undertaken by the Committees as well as messages from the Chairmen and Vice-Chairmen.

The Committee discussed the layout and content of the report, and requested that additional text be included detailing that additional scrutiny activity also included representatives on project boards, for example regarding the rollout of high speed broadband.

Resolved:

To approve the annual report.

37 Wiltshire Council Response to CLG Enquiry into Overview and Scrutiny in Local Government

On 24 January 2017 the Department of Communities and Local Government launched an enquiry into overview and scrutiny arrangements in England, seeking to determine that the arrangements are effective and monitorable by local communities. The Committee received a report on the themes focused on by the enquiry, noting that the enquiry was almost two decades after the original legislation which introduced the scrutiny arrangements, and following some high profile failures at councils and other authorities.

Owing to the submission deadline for responses, it was not possible for the Committee to be provided a draft response to the enquiry on behalf of Wiltshire Council. A response was therefore prepared by officers in consultation with the Chairman and Vice-Chairman of the Management Committee, the Cabinet Member for Hubs, Heritage and Arts, Governance and Support Services, and relevant Corporate and Associate Directors.

The Committee welcomed the government was seeking evidence, and looked forward to receiving details of the findings of the enquiry, in particular should there be committee processes and recommendations arising from parliament.

There was a strong view that improved effectiveness was essential for scrutiny work, and the committee endorsed the response from Wiltshire Council highlighting strengths of the system and less strong areas within Wiltshire and elsewhere. Effective and frequent working relationships with council Executives and earlier and significant input of decision making were two areas highlighted. It was also noted that while most councillors had, at one point, had some involvement with the scrutiny process, there was still a need in Wiltshire for greater and more substantive involvement from a wider array of councillors.

At the conclusion of discussion, it was,

Resolved:

To endorse the Wiltshire Council response to the Department for Communities and Local Government's call for evidence under its enquiry into overview and scrutiny in local government.

38 **Date of Next Meeting**

The date of the next meeting was confirmed as 6 June 2017.

39 **Urgent Items**

There were no urgent items.

(Duration of meeting: 10.30 am - 12.05 pm)

The Officer who has produced these minutes is Kieran Elliott (Senior Democratic Services Officer) of Democratic Services, direct line (01225) 718504, e-mail kieran.elliott@wiltshire.gov.uk

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