

EXTRACT OF INFORMAL OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY CHAIRS AND VICE-CHAIRS

NOTES OF THE INFORMAL OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY CHAIRS AND VICE-CHAIRS MEETING HELD ON 13 AUGUST 2013 AT STOATE MEETING ROOM, SHURNHOLD , MELKSHAM, SN12 8GQ.

Present:

Cllr Christine Crisp, Cllr Peter Edge, Cllr Alan Hill, Cllr Jon Hubbard, Cllr Simon Killane (Chairman), Cllr Jacqui Lay, Cllr John Noeken, Cllr Roy While (Vice Chairman)

Also Present:

Maggie Rae – Corporate Director
Robin Townsend – Interim Service Director – Executive Services
Paul Kelly – Scrutiny Manager
Henry Powell – Senior Scrutiny Officer
Maggie McDonald – Senior Scrutiny Officer
Stuart Figini – Democratic Services Officer

1. Apologies

There were no apologies.

2. Draft Business Plan 2013-17

Members were reminded that the Overview & Scrutiny Management Committee in receiving the first draft of the Draft Business Plan 2013 – 2017 at its meeting on 25 June 2013 agreed that the task of scrutinising it would be undertaken by the individual select committees and the Management Committee, with the meetings taking place between 2 July and 5 July 2013.

The views of each committee were then considered collectively by the Chairmen and Vice-Chairmen of the Management Committee and the three select committees on 8 July 2013 and incorporated into one report for Cabinet on 23 July 2013. A written response to the views and recommendations made by overview and scrutiny were tabled at the Cabinet meeting.

The Cabinet recommended that the Draft Business Plan as revised be presented to Council for adoption at its extraordinary meeting on 3 September 2013 together with any further comments from Scrutiny.

A revised Business Plan was subsequently circulated electronically to all overview and scrutiny members on 26 July 2013.

Members considered the following documents in order to help them review the revisions made on the Business Plan:

- Overview and Scrutiny report on the first draft Business Plan 2013/17 to Cabinet on 23 July 2013
- Corporate Directors covering report to Cabinet on 23 July 2013
- Written response to the views and recommendations made by OS
- Extract of the Cabinet minutes
- Latest version of the Business Plan – with a link to the original version of the Business Plan considered by the Overview and Scrutiny Management Committee at its meeting held on 25 June 2013

Consideration of the revised Business Plan was undertaken and the following comments made:

- a) Members were generally happy that the Business Plan 2013-17 represented the views of the Overview and Scrutiny Management Committee and Select Committees however they questioned how the Business Plan would be scrutinised in the future.
- b) Members were reminded that the Business Plan was an overarching document and that the Management Committee and Select Committees would be undertaking in-depth scrutiny of the Service Plans, following discussions with Service Directors, portfolio holders and cabinet members, to establish where maximum value could be achieved.
- c) In particular it was felt that communication with officers, portfolio holders and cabinet members was essential for the Health Select Committee to keep track of new information and directives from Government in relation to Health issues. It was suggested that the Health Select Committee would require additional training to keep up to date on current health issues.
- d) Councillor Hubbard expressed continuing concern that the Youth Advisory Groups – YAGs - were not specifically mentioned in the Business Plan and explained why he felt that the Group should be included. Cllr Hubbard recalled that the Cabinet agreed a mandate for YAGs and that the Integrated Youth Service was asked to set up the YAGs alongside the Area Boards.
- e) Other Members felt that it was essential that young people had a voice, however it was also important for other groups and it was not appropriate to single out one over another. Maggie Rae, Corporate Director explained that there was an expectation that the Council and its Area Boards would engage with young people in many ways including through the YAGs.
- f) Members also heard another view that if there was a mandate from Cabinet for the YAGs then there was no need for them to be specifically mentioned in the Business Plan.

Recommended:

To advise the Executive and full Council of the additional comments of the Overview and Scrutiny Chairs and Vice-Chairs on the revised draft Business Plan as detailed above.

(Duration of meeting: 2:00pm- 3:20pm)

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