

OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE

MINUTES OF THE OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE MEETING HELD ON 3 MARCH 2015 AT KENNET ROOM - COUNTY HALL, TROWBRIDGE BA14 8JN.

Present:

Cllr Simon Killane (Chairman), Cllr Christine Crisp, Cllr Stewart Dobson, Cllr Peter Edge, Cllr Jon Hubbard, Cllr Gordon King, Cllr Jacqui Lay, Cllr John Noeken, Cllr Jeff Osborn, Cllr Pip Ridout, Cllr Ian Thorn, Cllr John Walsh, Cllr Bridget Wayman and Cllr Philip Whalley

Also Present:

Cllr Philip Whitehead

30 Apologies

Apologies were received from Councillor Alan Hill.

31 Minutes of the Previous Meeting

The minutes of the meetings held on 6 January, 4 February and 13 February 2015 were presented for consideration, and it was,

Resolved:

To approve and sign the minutes as true and correct records.

32 Declarations of Interest

There were no declarations.

33 Chairman's Announcements

- 1) Through the Chair it was announced at the start of proceedings that in keeping with the council's preparation for future broadcasting of the Committee's deliberations, the meeting would be recorded for training purposes.
- 2) The preparations for the forthcoming LGA Review of Wiltshire's Overview and Scrutiny service on 10 and 11 March was announced, with Member representatives with experience of scrutiny as well as officer representatives. Invitations for sessions of the review had been circulated to scrutiny members and relevant officers.

34 **Public Participation**

No questions or statements were submitted.

35 **Forward Work Programme**

Updates from Chairs/Vice-Chairs

Environment Select Committee

The Waste Task Group continued to look at council communications around waste and recycling. The ongoing review of the Balfour Beatty Living Places contract would also be monitoring and reviewing the contract and operations as the spring and summer seasons approached, and a cross select committee group on public transport as suggested previously by the management committee was supported.

Children's Select Committee

The recommendations of the SEND Task Group had been endorsed by the Committee, and the Chairman requested the thanks of the Committee in particular to the co-opted member and Chairman of the Task Group Reverend Alice Kemp be recorded, which was described by the Cabinet Member as one of the best evidenced pieces of scrutiny work they had seen.

The final report of the Schools and the Local Authority Task Group had been received, with an executive response expected at the next meeting along with one for the SEND Task Group.

The new Child Sexual Exploitation Task Group was being arranged, with an initial focus on the prevention aspect of the PreventProtectPursue strategy. An action plan would be assessed by the Corporate Leadership Team shortly. Attention was also drawn to the 'Chelsea's Choice' theatrical production on CSE awareness, concepts and strategies, with members encouraged to look up further information (<http://www.alteregocreativesolutions.co.uk/chelseas-choice/>)

The Committee had also being asked to give views on new contracts for the children's centres in the county and endorsement was sought for a Task Group to investigate the matter and report by June 2015. A potential Task Group on the forthcoming School Improvement strategy was also sought.

There was also discussion of press announcements on potential new rules on obligations to report CSE concerns, with the Committee requesting that all Members be informed of existing reporting measures and responsibilities, to be circulated to Towns and Parish Councils as well, and further updates when information on any changes emerged. Members were reminded that urgent referrals relating to child protection should be made to the Multi-Agency Safeguarding Hub on 08456 070888 and mash@wiltshire.gcsx.gov.uk.

Resolved

To endorse the establishment of a Children's Centres Task Group and a School Improvement Strategy Task Group; and

To invite the Corporate Directors to arrange for a briefing note to be circulated to Members reminding them of existing CSE concerns and how to report any concerns, to be also forwarded to Towns and Parish Councils.

Health Select Committee

The final report of the Transfer to Care Task Group had been received and an action plan from the 100 day challenge being awaited, with a new Task Group expected to monitor progress addressing concerns.

The Chairman explained that the final report of the Continence Services Task Group had been received by the Committee in May 2014 and accepted by the council and the Clinical Commissioning Group, but the Committee were concerned there appeared little progress on the issues raised, and the Management Committee supported writing further to the CCG to be provided with appropriate updates.

The Help to Live at Home Task Group had held several meetings and interviews with relevant parties, with a report from Mears to be considered ahead of the next Committee meeting.

The first meeting of the joint AWP Task Group would be on 20 March 2015.

It was also reported the Committee was considering a joint Task Group on Obesity, Community Services contracts, and had discussed recent improvements in the NHS 111 service, and a fall in complaints regarding Aviva Transport.

36 Management Committee Task Group Update

The updates from the Task Groups as detailed in the agenda papers were noted.

There were the following additional updates:

In response to queries it was clarified that all SWLEP decisions were signed off by central government rather than the local authorities due to European rules on acceptable 'accountable bodies'. It was requested the strategic economic plan of the Local Enterprise Partnership be circulated to members. It was also confirmed the Chair of a LEP was appointed by means of being openly advertised, but that the Chair and the local council leaders appointed the other members.

The Committee reiterated that local and wider bodies should be as transparent and accountable as possible where public funds are involved.

37 **Engagement in Major Projects**

Councillor George Jeans, Project Member on the Broadband Rollout Project, presented a written update as detailed in the agenda supplement. A verbal update was also provided, where it was stated the rollout was currently behind schedule, and there would be additional funding to go beyond the planned 91% coverage for phase 1. The Committee asked for further details on the project, where issues including but not limited to the following were raised:

Concerns were raised at the slower than expected rollout, due it was stated to the complexities of servicing a large and predominantly rural county, and requested a more detailed visual representation of the progress of the rollout be provided for a future update.

The limitations of information provided to the Committee due to rules on confidentiality meant they could not adequately scrutinize the progress of the project, and a fuller update was requested for the next meeting, with the Committee to exclude the public if confidential information needed to be disclosed to understand the issues properly.

Further questions were raised about proper scrutiny of BT accounts, efforts to improve digital literacy across the county in concert with the broadband rollout and more generally, and for details of phase 2 of the project, where it was stated more of the harder to reach areas would receive solutions, along with other scenarios such as urban areas and houses on exchange-only lines suffering poor speeds

Councillor Jeans was also the Scrutiny Member on the Paperless Programme but it had not yet progressed to the point a full update could be provided at the present time, though it was stated the physical storage of files, including the council maintaining its County Hall East Wing storage, was a significant cost, highlighting the need for a digitisation strategy.

Resolved:

To thank Cllr Jeans for his updates, and to request a full officer report at the next meeting, to include part 2 confidential information if deemed necessary and visual representations of the progress of the broadband rollout across the county.

38 **Scrutiny Councillor Development Update**

In January 2015 the Management Committee received a report from the Overview and Scrutiny Manager and the Operational Development Lead (Enabling) on a proposed Scrutiny Development Programme, which through the use of council and consultant resources would develop a 4 year Scrutiny

training and development programme to provide comprehensive and strategically focused skills for non-executive members to appropriately perform the oversight and scrutiny duties.

While the Management Committee had welcomed the proposed scheme and the more structured and focused skills based approach over a longer timescale, it was not felt appropriate to approve the scheme at the time when the level of funds available to training and development, for scrutiny and for other councillor courses, was unknown, and the matter was deferred until after the approval of the council's budget on 24 February 2015.

A new update was therefore presented, and it was stated the available budget had been reduced from £40,000 to £10,000 to cover all councillor training, not just scrutiny training. Officers were therefore in consultation with scrutiny chairmen what the priorities for training should be, and this would inform discussions with consultants and trainers on what could be provided with the funds available.

New proposals focusing on what was deliverable in 2015/16 would be prepared for the Councillor Development Group and then the 19 May meeting of the Management Committee, but it was confirmed there would need to be less emphasis on face to face training, and alternate methods explored.

Resolved:

To consider a revised development programme at the meeting on 19 May 2015.

39 Date of Next Meeting

The date of the next meeting was confirmed as 19 May 2015.

40 Urgent Items

It was requested that an update on Campuses from the relevant Cabinet Member be arranged for the next meeting, and added to the Forward Work Programme.

(Duration of meeting: 10.30 am - 1.00 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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