

## **OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE**

### **MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD ON 14 MARCH 2008**

Present: Councillors P Connolly (Chairman); K Hitchen (Deputy Chairman); Mrs Y R T Clarkson; J Kane; R Salkeld; Mrs W Metherell and Mrs E Eastwood.

Also present: Councillor N Williams.

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors P Whalley and M McVeigh.

Officers: N White, Scrutiny Support Officer; T Capper, Democratic Services Manager; P Robson, Acting Accountancy Services Manager; C Willoughby, Members Services Technical Support Officer.

J Salt, Head of Customer Services Agenda Items 5 and 7.  
M Jepson, Head of Legal and Democratic Services Agenda Item 10.

#### **Minutes**

The Minutes of the meeting held on 15 February 2008 were signed by the Chairman as a correct record.

#### **MGT 71/07 Arrangement of Agenda**

It was agreed to take Items 5 and 7 towards the end of the agenda to allow for the appropriate Officer to be present.

#### **MGT 72/07 Joint Authority Scrutiny Working Group.** **West Cumbria Strategic Partnership meeting 21 February 2008**

The Committee received the notes of the Joint Authority Scrutiny Working Group, West Cumbria Strategic Partnership meeting held on 21 February 2008.

The notes of the meeting contained recommendations that:

“a) Allerdale and Copeland Council be requested to institute an arrangement whereby a report on the outcome from the West Cumbria Joint Leadership Committee meetings be submitted to its full council meetings and Cumbria County Council be requested to institute a similar arrangement to its area committee,

b) the membership of the West Cumbria Strategic Partnership Forum be sent to all members of the group,

- c) further consideration be given to the focus of scrutiny in the West Cumbria Strategic Partnership, and
- d) further consideration be given to as to the role of locality partnerships involvement in the West Cumbria Strategic Partnership” for consideration.

During consideration of this item a list was requested of which Copeland Members represented the Council on the various West Cumbria Strategic Partnership Committees/sub Committees be made available to all Members of this Committee.

**RESOLVED** – that

- a) the notes of the Joint Authority Scrutiny Working Group West Cumbria Strategic Partnership meeting 21 February 2008 be received and noted
- b) reports on the outcome from the West Cumbria Strategic Partnership Leadership Committee meetings be submitted to Full Council
- c) the first report include who represents Council on Committees and this be provided to all members of this committee.

**MGT 73/07 Work Plan Consultation**

Consideration was given to a proposed list of consultees who would be instrumental in the revision of the work plans for Overview and Scrutiny Committees for the next municipal year. During consideration it was suggested that all Staff, Neighbourhood Forums and Whitehaven Councillors be included.

**RESOLVED** – that subject to the inclusion of Staff and Neighbourhood Forums the list of consultees for the Work Programmes 2008/2009 be approved.

**MGT 74/07 ICT Sub Group**

**RESOLVED** – that the notes of the ICT Sub Group held on 15 February 2008 be received and noted.

**MGT 75/07 Forward Plan**

Consideration was given to the Forward Plan of Key Decisions - February to May 2008.

**RESOLVED** – that the Forward Plan of Key Decisions - February to May 2008 be noted.

**MGT 76/07 Work Plan**

The Committee considered the Work Plans of all the Council's Overview and Scrutiny Committees.

During consideration of this item and in connection with the Dignity at Work and Compassionate Leave Policy it was noted that a meeting of the Personnel Panel was to be held in the near future.

Members were also updated on the West Cumbria Strategic Partnership and advised that the Chamber of Trade and Cumbria Tourism were to be invited to the April meeting of the Economic Development and Enterprise Overview and Scrutiny Committee.

The Committee requested an update from the Portfolio holder on Pow Beck and the Housing & Community (South Whitehaven) Task Group, and it was agreed that the Portfolio Holder would be asked to attend the next meeting of the Committee.

The Committee were advised that the Safer and Stronger Communities Overview and Scrutiny Committee had arranged a site visit to the CCTV Control Centre and the Crematorium on 27 March 2008. It was suggested that this be made available to all Members.

**RESOLVED** – that

- a) the Work Plan be noted;
- b) the Portfolio Holder be invited to attend the Overview and Scrutiny Management Committee's June meeting to update the Committee on Pow Beck and the Housing & Community (South Whitehaven) Task Group.
- c) all Members be invited to attend the CCTV and Crematorium site visit on 27 March 2008.

**MGT 77/07 Accessible Information Policy**

The Committee received a report from the Head of Customer Services on the monitoring of the Council's Accessible Information Policy.

During consideration of this item, it was noted that the Customer Services department maintain a list of staff members who speak foreign languages and would be able to assist in making documents more accessible.

**RESOLVED** – that the report on the monitoring of the Council's Accessible Information Policy be received.

**MGT 78/07 Compliments, Comments and Complaints**

The Committee received an update from the Head of Customer Services on Compliments, Comments and Complaints received in the first half of the 2007/2008 Municipal Year.

Members were advised that figures may increase due to a change in the

reporting process, following the Customer Management System going live on the 1 March 2008, together with Managers being asked to report and feedback compliments, and complaints to the Customer Relations Officer.

The Head of Customer Services was invited to report back to this Committee with a further update in six months and to include statistics following the introduction of the new telephony system on 10 March 2008.

**RESOLVED** – that

- a) the Compliments, Comments and Complaints report be noted.
- b) managers be encouraged to report Compliments, Comments and Complaints to the Customer Relations Officer.
- c) the Head of Customer Services be invited to report back to this Committee with a further update in six months.

**MGT 79/07**    **Executive Decisions**

The Decision made by the Executive at its meeting on the 11 March 2008 were considered and noted.

**MGT 80/07**    **Exclusion of Press and Public**

Due to Executive *decisions 9 – 12* being considered under Part 11 of the Agenda it was moved by Councillor K Hitchen duly seconded and

**RESOLVED** - That pursuant to Section 100(A)(4) of the Local Government Act, 1972, as amended, the press and public be excluded from the meeting for the following items of business on the grounds of likely disclosure of exempt information as defined in paragraph 3 of Part 1 of Schedule 12A to the Act

**MGT 81/07**    **Executive Decisions**

Consideration was given to the Decisions from the Executive made on 11 March 2008.

During consideration of this item Members were updated on the Pow Beck Valley regeneration programme. The joint statement issued on behalf of Council and Whitehaven Rugby League Football Club was discussed together with the Urgent Action used to kick start the Regeneration project.

**RESOLVED** – that the decisions from the Executive meeting on 11 March 2008 be noted.

The meeting closed at 12.05pm

Chairman