

OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE

MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD ON 15 AUGUST 2008

Present: Councillors P Connolly, Chairman; R Pitt, Deputy Chairman; Mrs Y R T Clarkson; Mrs E Eastwood; J Kane; M McVeigh; Mrs W Metherell; P Whalley; C Whiteside.

Officers: L Murphy, Chief Executive; T J Chilcott, Corporate Director, Quality of Life; M Jepson, Head of Legal and Democratic Services; J Salt, Head of Customer Services; H Mitchell, Head of Policy and Performance; T Capper, Democratic Services Manager; N White, Scrutiny Support Officer; P Robson, Acting Deputy S151 Officer.

Minutes

The Minutes of the meeting held on 18 July 2008 were signed by the Chairman as a correct record.

MGT 22/08 Staff Recruitment and Retention

Following a discussion it was

RESOLVED – that the report of the Task and Finish Group on Staff Recruitment and Retention be withdrawn from the agenda for this meeting to enable the report to be distributed to officers who appeared as witnesses for checking for factual accuracy, and re-submitted to this Committee at a special meeting to be held on 4 September at 10.00 am.

MGT 23/08 Relationship of Overview and Scrutiny to CAA

The Committee considered and noted a report setting out ways in which effective overview and scrutiny arrangements in local authorities, and the political make-up of overview and scrutiny committees, can impact on an authority's scores in Comprehensive Performance Assessment (CPA) and from 2009 onwards Comprehensive Area Assessment (CAA).

MGT 24/08 ACE Overview and Scrutiny Chairs Training

Consideration was given to nomination of Members to attend the ACE (Achieving Cumbrian Excellence) and IDeA sponsored training for OSC Chairs and Deputy Chairs in October 2008. It was agreed that priority should be given to Members who have not attended this training in previous years.

RESOLVED – that Councillor Pitt be nominated to attend, and in addition other Members by approaching the officers after the meeting.

MGT 25/08 Forward Plan

Members considered and noted the key decisions to be taken by the Executive.

MGT 26/08 Work Plan

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

AGREED - that the Work Plan be noted, with inclusion of an additional item on the budgetary process.

MGT 27/08 Executive Decisions

Members considered the decisions made by the Executive at its meeting on 12 August 2008.

On the Regeneration Delivery Plan, Members questioned the level of information in the report and discussed whether there might be a role for the OSC Economic Development & Enterprise in developing the Delivery Plan further. Members noted that there were a number of stages for the Plan still to be taken through and that the final decision on its adoption would be for full Council.

AGREED - that

- a) the decisions made by the Executive at its meeting on the 12 August 2008 be noted; and
- b) the relevant Portfolioholder and Director be asked to make a presentation to the OSC Economic Development and Enterprise on the Regeneration Delivery Plan.

MGT 28/08 Exclusion of Press and Public

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 29/08 Executive Decisions – Exempt Items

Consideration was given to the Executive report giving the updated position from the Chief Executive on the closure of the 2007/2007 and 2007/2008 Accounts, together with details of the costs of procuring external assistance. Members noted a report on the failure of the Council to close the accounts promptly would be submitted to Audit Committee, but that payment of invoices and the current cash balances had been confirmed as satisfactory.

RESOLVED - that

- a) the decisions made by the Executive at its meeting on the 12 August 2008 be noted, and
- b) the present position in respect of the closure of the accounts be noted.

The meeting closed at 11.45 am

Chairman.....

Date.....