

**OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY COMMITTEE (INTERNAL)**

**MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD ON 27 SEPTEMBER 2010**

Present: Councillors Mrs Y Clarkson (Chairman); Mrs E Eastwood; Mrs A Faichney; J Kane; A Mossop; J Park; Mrs J Williams.

Also in attendance Councillors C Whiteside and G Garrity

Apologies for absence: Councillor R Pitt.

Officers: P Walker, Chief Executive; J Hall, Scrutiny Support Officer; T Capper, Democratic Services Manager; M Jepson, Head of Legal and Democratic Services; A MacKinnon, Enforcement Manager; A Walton, Equalities Officer (Agenda Item 12)

**OSC1 09/10**     **Minutes**

The minutes of the meeting held on 2 August 2010 were signed by the Chairman as a correct record.

**OSC1 10/10**     **Petition from Bransty School on Dog Fouling**

The Chairman welcomed six members of Bransty School Council (Lloyd O'Neil, Jacob Johnson, Joshua Parr, Matthew Jackson, Olivia Gilmour and Bethany Mills) who attended the meeting in support of their petition presented to the last meeting of the Committee concerning dog fouling. Three School Council members addressed the meeting outlining their concerns, particularly relating to the health risks arising from dog fouling.

The Enforcement Manager then responded to the issues raised, outlining the measures being taken to address dog fouling in the Bransty area and elsewhere, and emphasising the importance of all incidents being reported to the Enforcement Team. Members then also asked questions of the Enforcement Manager.

At the conclusion of the discussion, the Chairman thanked the School Council representatives for attending the meeting and asked them to report to the Committee again in 6 months' time on any improvements.

**OSC 1 11/10**     **Work Programme 2010-2011**

The Committee considered the Work Programme for 2010-2011 for this Committee, and noted that there would be 3 special meetings of this Committee to which all other overview and scrutiny members would be invited.

**OSC 1 12/10 Member Request for Agenda Item**

The Committee considered a letter received from 3 Councillors requesting an item of business to be placed on the Committee's Work Plan reviewing the role of Council members appointed to the Board of Whitehaven Rugby League Football Club. The letter specified seven specific matters for review.

The Committee considered whether or not to agree to accept the proposed review onto its work plan, and, if in agreement how to progress the review. The Chief Executive advised the Committee on his role as policy adviser to the Council as a whole, including overview and scrutiny, and that he would be prepared to investigate the matter on behalf of the Committee.

The Committee then considered and discussed the options of progressing the proposed review through an Improvement Group, or alternatively by asking the Chief Executive to carry out an investigation on behalf of the Committee and report back to the next meeting.

**RESOLVED** – that

- (a) the Committee agrees to accept the item of work onto its work plan; and
- (b) asks the Chief Executive to investigate the matter and report back to the next meeting of the Committee.

**OSC 1 13/10 Forward Plan**

The Committee considered and noted the Executive Forward Plan.

**OSC 1 14/10 Future Arrangements for Joint Scrutiny in Cumbria**

The Committee considered a letter from the Chair of the Cumbria Joint Scrutiny Committee on future joint scrutiny arrangements, which had been considered by the Informal Co-ordinating Board in view of the timescales for responding.

The Committee noted and endorsed the response of the Informal Co-ordinating Board.

**OSC 1 15/10 Equality Framework for Local Government**

The Committee considered and noted a report setting out progress towards the Achieving Level of the Equality Framework for Local Government.

**OSC 1 16/10 Concurrent Service Scheme Improvement Group**

The Committee were informed of progress in the work of this Improvement Group which would be meeting again on 7 October to consider its final report and recommendations.

The meeting closed at 3.55 pm

Chairman .....

Date .....

## **OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY COMMITTEE (INTERNAL)**

### **MINUTES OF THE SPECIAL MEETING HELD AT 2.00PM ON MONDAY 8 NOVEMBER 2010**

Present: Councillors Mrs Y Clarkson (Chairman); B Dixon; Mrs M Docherty; Mrs A Faichney; J Kane; A Mossop; R Salkeld and Mrs J Williams.

Also in attendance Councillors C Whiteside, G Garrity, Mrs E Eastwood; K Hitchen and Tyson

Apologies for absence: Councillor J Park.

Officers: P Walker, Chief Executive; J Wagstaffe, Corporate Director for Resources and Transformation; J Hall, Overview and Scrutiny Support Officer; M Jepson, Head of Legal and Democratic Services;

#### **OSC1 17/10 Arrangement of Agenda**

Following a welcome from the Chair and a short introduction from the Chief Executive who outlined what the committee would be updated on, it was agreed that the agenda would be taken in the order in which it was published.

#### **OSC1 18/10 The role of Overview and Scrutiny in the Budget Process**

The Corporate Director for Resources and Transformation introduced the report on the role of Overview and Scrutiny in the Council's budget process. She referred to the timetable and where Overview and Scrutiny would fit in and she also drew attention to public consultation. It was highlighted this would be carried out through a number of avenues including the website, media and other available forums.

The Corporate Director for Resources and Transformation drew attention to section 2.2 of the report which emphasised the role of Overview and Scrutiny in the budget process. Discussion followed on the draft Corporate Plan and Members were advised that this would be available at a later stage of the budget process.

In relation to the timetable, queries were raised over the length and timing of the public consultation period. The Chief Executive advised that the timetable was tight however information was still awaited from Government and the Council needed to programme decision making and consultation where it could in order to meet the deadline for budget setting. Methods of carrying out public consultation were being considered.

RESOLVED

a) The role of Overview and Scrutiny in the Council's budget process is noted.

**OSC 1 19/10**     **Budget Timetable and Medium Term Financial Strategy**

Members considered a report from the Corporate Director for Resources Transformation and Resources providing a draft budget timetable and an update on key budget issues considered to date, together with a brief update on the work undertaken so far. The report had previously been considered by the Resource Planning Working Group.

Committee was advised that the budget gap for 2011/12 had been revised from an estimated £1.4m to £2.1m. Attention was drawn to section 2.2 of the report and the Chief Executive informed Members of the savings already identified as part of the full base budget review, as well as others that had been identified and were subject to ratification as part of the Star Chamber process.

RESOLVED – that

- a) The current position on the budget
- b) The timeline and key dates for the 2010/11 budget process

**OSC 1 20/10**     **Impact of the Comprehensive Spending Review**

Members considered a report on the Comprehensive Spending Review (CSR) announced on 20 October giving high level indicators of spending for the next four years.

The Corporate Director for Resources and Transformation and the Chief Executive presented the report in detail and gave an indication of how the CSR could impact on the Council's budget.

Members were informed the cuts were significant, amounting to 28% over four years and these would be frontloaded. However a lot of information was outstanding and would not be forthcoming until the Formula Grant was announced in December.

Members queried the position in relation to 2.1 of the report referring to Council Tax and what impact this would have on Parishes setting precepts. Committee was advised that they would be advised as soon as the position was clear.

With reference to 2.5 of the report, it was noted that it may be beneficial if the

External Overview and Scrutiny Committee to consider the work of external agencies in relation to flooding in the Borough and costs and savings of flooding defence programmes.

Members were advised that the longer terms implications at this stage were not yet clear but that each public sector organisation in Cumbria were working together to assess the impact across the County through the Cumbria Leaders Board. This ensures that nobody is working in isolation.

RESOLVED – that

a) Members note the content of the report

### **OSC 1 21/10 Service Reviews 2010/11**

Members considered a report from the Corporate Director for Resources and Transformation outlining progress in undertaking service reviews in 2010.

An accompanying sheet was circulated to Members outlining how savings in budgets will be achieved for 2011/12 to 2014/15 through:

- Base Budget Review
- Self - Assessment Service Review
- Corporate Savings
- Programme of Full Service Reviews

The Chief Executive gave a comprehensive update on progress made and how the process would be communicated across the organisation and externally.

It was noted that the OSCs could consider the impact of the service reviews in the short/medium and long term.

Members were advised they would be kept informed throughout the process

The Chief Executive and Corporate Director for Resources and Transformation were thanked for their reports.

RESOLVED – that

a) The OSC notes the report and the likely outputs from service reviews

The meeting closed at 2.30pm.

Chairman .....

Date .....