

OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY COMMITTEE

MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD ON 10 OCTOBER 2013 AT 2:00PM

Present: Councillors John Kane (Chair); David Banks; Jackie Bowman; Eileen Eastwood; Geoff Garrity; Ian Hill; Sam Pollen; Dave Smith and Henry Wormstrup.

Apologies for Absence: Councillors Allan Forster; Gilbert Scurrah and Felicity Wilson.

Officers: Penny Mell, Head of Policy and Transformation and Clive Willoughby, Member Services Technical Support Officer.
Julie Betteridge, Head of Development Strategy for item 13.

Also present: Councillor Gillian Troughton

OSC 18/13

Minutes

The Minutes of the meeting held on 8 August 2013 were signed by the Chairman as a correct record.

Arising from the minutes, Members discussed further the Waste Services Changes implementation (Minute OSC 17/13).

In particular, members felt that Off-route collections, missed collections and the consultation process warranted further scrutiny.

It was suggested that a Special Overview and Scrutiny meeting be arranged within the next 3-4 weeks to which all Members are to be invited.

RESOLVED – That a Special Overview and Scrutiny meeting be arranged within the next 3-4 weeks to which all Members are to be invited to further scrutinise the Waste Services Changes.

OSC 19/13

Executive Forward Plan

Committee considered the Forward Plan of the Council's Executive for the period August - November 2013.

During discussion of this item, members asked for the 'Decision List' to also be circulated and it was stated that this already happened.

It was further requested that OSC members be sent the Executive agendas. Again, it was stated that this already happened. The Chair and Deputy Chair receive the full Executive agenda and all remaining OSC members receive the agenda front page

from which they can select any items they wish to receive papers on. Members were also reminded that all agendas are available on the Copeland website and that any member was welcome to attend Executive meetings.

RESOLVED – That the Forward Plan be noted.

OSC 20/13

Financial Monitoring

Members received from Councillor Gillian Troughton, an overview of the Financial Monitoring Report Quarter 4, 2012-13.

During the discussion that followed, Members stated that the report included in the agenda was too detailed and requested that in future a summary page in layman's terms be provided.

RESOLVED – That the Financial Monitoring Report Quarter 4, 2012-13 be noted.

OSC 21/13

Performance Monitoring

The Head of Policy and Transformation provided a summary of the Corporate Plan Performance Report Quarter 1, 2013-14 that had previously been taken to the Executive on 27 August 2013.

Members were advised that the report set out performance against the 3 priorities in the Corporate Plan 2013/15 at the first quarter, end of June 2013 and performance was assessed based on the delivery of:

- Progress against Key Performance Indicators
- Progress against the Change Plan
- Achievements made through our work in our key strategic partnerships
- Progress made in our work with enabling communities
- Progress made in delivering the Growth Strategy

During the discussion that followed, Members asked for details on the five key performance indicators that were 'off target'.

RESOLVED – that the Performance monitoring update be received.

OSC 22/13

Report of the Member representative to the Cumbria Health Scrutiny Committee

Councillor Geoff Garrity reported verbally to Overview and Scrutiny Members on the Cumbria Health Scrutiny Committee.

It was reported that work on the West Cumberland Hospital new build was progressing ahead of schedule and that in his role of Mayor, had visited the new hospital site. Councillor Garrity reported that he was very impressed with the new building.

RESOLVED – that the report be noted.

OSC 23/13

Progress Reports/Final Reports from Public Sector Partner Priority Task Groups

No Items reported at this meeting.

OSC 24/13

Work Programme

Members considered the Committee's Work Programme.

RESOLVED – that the Work Programme be noted.

OSC 25/13

Access to Services

The Head of Policy and Transformation delivered a presentation regarding Access to Services.

It was reported that the new Copeland website had now been launched. With regards to future changes, work was ongoing to deliver Council tax, a Book of Remembrance and Planning on-line. Plans for improvements in the Reception area were also being developed.

RESOLVED – that the presentation and update be received.

OSC 26/13

Homelessness Strategy

The Head of Development Strategy provided Committee with an overview of the Copeland Homelessness Strategy 2013-2018.

It was stated that under the Homelessness Act 2002, every local authority must have a homelessness strategy for the purpose of coordinating activities and resources for tackling homelessness and that this be reviewed every five years.

The Copeland strategy would focus equally on tackling all forms of homelessness including

- Statutory Homelessness
- Homeless families
- Single Homelessness
- Hidden Homelessness

A question and answer session followed and a number of suggestions/comments were made, including the use of the private sector.

Members were advised that the strategy had been updated following the Strategic Housing Panel meeting on 17 September 2013 and was being forwarded to the Executive for their consideration on 22 October 2013.

The Housing Services Manager was thanked for her presentation.

RESOLVED – That the presentation be received.

The meeting closed at 4:50 pm

Chairman

Date