

## **OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY COMMITTEE**

### **MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD ON 11 MARCH 2015 AT 2:00PM**

Present: Councillors John Kane (Chairman); David Banks; Jackie Bowman; George Clements; Ian Hill; Gilbert Scurrah; Felicity Wilson and Henry Wormstrup.

Apologies for Absence: Councillors Eileen Eastwood; Allan Forster; Sam Pollen; Dave Smith;

Officers: Clive Willoughby, Member Services Technical Support Officer and Interim Scrutiny Officer; Lindsay Tomlinson, Democratic Services Manager & Monitoring Officer; Julie Betteridge, Head of Customer and Community Services and Angela George, Interim Finance Manager (S151 Officer).

Also Present: Councillors Gillian Troughton; Geoff Garrity and John Bowman.

**OSC 65/14**

#### **Chairman's Introduction**

The Chairman began the meeting by thanking Andrea Smith for her work as Scrutiny Officer, prior to her leaving the authority last month, He continued by welcoming Clive Willoughby as Interim Scrutiny Officer.

The Chairman emphasised the statutory role of scrutiny in the workings of the Council and expressed a wish that commitment to scrutiny by senior management be made going forward, particularly with the introduction of a Directly Elected Mayor in May 2015.

**OSC 66/14**

#### **Minutes**

The Minutes of the meetings held on 9 February 2015 were signed by the Chairman as a correct record.

Arising from the minutes, Councillor Fee Wilson wished to ensure that the South Copeland Health Review was included on the Scrutiny Work Programme for 2015-16.

**OSC 67/14**

#### **Declarations of Interest**

Councillor Fee Wilson declared a non-pecuniary interest in any item regarding Millom, due to being a Millom Town Councillor.

OSC 68/14

**Quarter 3 Finance Reports**

The Interim Finance Manager (S151 Officer) provided Committee with an overview of the Quarter 3 2014/15 Finance reports which had previously been reported to the Executive, at their meeting on 12 February 2015.

During the discussion of this item, Members questioned a number of entries including 'slippage' of £952k and the delay in the Millom Cemetery project.

Committee enquired if the terminology used in the report could be more user friendly in terms that the general public could understand, particularly the 'Underspend' which means the project is 'ongoing' and that the funds are committed.

Members asked the Interim Finance Manager (S151 Officer) if future reports could be simplified for the Overview & Scrutiny Committee, with a summary page.

**RESOLVED** – That

- a) The Quarter 3 Finance Reports be noted, and
- b) The Interim Finance Manager (S151 Officer) consider simplifying future OSC reports.

OSC 69/14

**Corporate Plan Performance Report - Quarter 3, 2014/15**

The Interim Finance Manager (S151 Officer) introduced this report to Committee and invited questions and/or comments.

Members highlighted those indicators within Table One of the report that were not 'On Target', being Revenue & Benefits, Planning and New Home build.

With regard to Revenue & Benefits, the decision made to bring the service back In-House will improve the situation and this improvement should be seen in the Quarter 4 figures.

The off target Planning performance indicators had been caused by staffing issues, which had now been resolved and again, an improvement should be seen in the Quarter 4 figures.

During discussion of this item, it was suggested that a further column be added to Table One to allow for a brief explanation where the performance indicator was off target.

RESOLVED – That

- a) The Corporate Plan Performance Report - Quarter 3, 2014/15 be noted, and
- b) a further column be added in future to Table One to allow for a brief explanation where the performance indicator was off target.

**OSC 70/14**

**Executive Forward Plan**

Committee considered the Forward Plan of the Executive which had previously been reported to the Executive at their meeting on 12 February 2015.

RESOLVED – That the Executive Forward Plan be noted.

**OSC 71/14**

**Report of the Member representative to the Cumbria Health Scrutiny Committee**

Councillor Geoff Garrity provided Members with a verbal update.

It was stated that the North West Ambulance Service had been scrutinised and that their Chief Executive had been asked to attend the next Cumbria Health Scrutiny Committee.

It was further stated that five ambulances covered the Copeland area, with only one on duty overnight, which Members felt was unacceptable.

During discussion of this item, Members were encouraged to attend the next 3 Tier Meeting being held on 23 March 2015 at 6:30pm in Egremont Market Hall, where Cumbria Health was to be an agenda item.

It was suggested that Adult Social Services and Children's mental health provision be added to the OSC Work Programme to be looked at after the election.

RESOLVED – That

- a) the verbal report of the Member representative to the Cumbria Health Scrutiny Committee be noted, and
- b) Adult Social Services and Children's mental health provision be added to the OSC Work Programme for 2015-16.

**OSC 72/14**

**Work Programme**

Committee considered items for inclusion in the OSC Work Programme for 2015-16.

It was noted that the South Copeland Health Review and Adult Social Services and Children's mental health provision had already been agreed for inclusion. It was suggested that recommendations for further items be forwarded to the Interim Scrutiny Officer.

**RESOLVED** – That recommendations for further items to be included in the OSC Work Programme be forwarded to the Interim Scrutiny Officer.

**OSC 73/14**

**Partnerships**

The Head of Customer and Community Services provided Committee with a brief update and advised Members that an Outside Bodies report was being prepared for the April meeting of Full Council.

During the following discussion, Committee enquired what happened to the Outside Bodies reports submitted by Members.

It was stated that feedback could be part of the new ModGov system that is to be introduced shortly and it was suggested that it could be monitored by the Member Development Panel

**RESOLVED** – That the update be noted.

**OSC 74/14**

**Directly Elected Mayor**

Committee received an update on the Directly Elected Mayor from the Democratic Services Manager & Monitoring Officer.

Members were advised that the Corporate Leadership Team Sub Group continued to meet as did the Constitution Working Group.

Phase One of the Constitution changes had been to the last Full Council meeting and the Phase Two changes would be going to the next Full Council on 9 April 2015.

The Executive delegations would be a report to the Annual Meeting on 1 June 2015.

Four briefings had been held across the borough during the last week, which had been well attended.

Nominations for Mayor would be accepted between 31 March and 9 April 2015.

The Mayoral nomination form must be signed by 30 people on the Copeland Electoral Register and a deposit of £500 paid (refunded provided the candidate receives at least 5% of the first preference vote).

**RESOLVED** – That the update be received.

The meeting closed at 4:20pm

Chairman .....

Date .....