

JOINT OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY COMMITTEE (INTERNAL & EXTERNAL)

MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD ON 21 JUNE 2012 AT 10:00AM

Present: Councillors John Kane; Keith Hitchen; Eileen Eastwood; Henry Wormstrup; Jackie Bowman, Geoff Garrity, Peter Kane, Michael McVeigh; Robert Salkeld; John Park; Peter Stephenson; Dave Smith; Norman Williams and Felicity Wilson.

Apologies for absence: Councillors Lena Hogg and William Southward.

Officers: Jessica Hall, Policy and Scrutiny Support Officer; Tim Capper, Democratic Services Manager; Darienne Law, Head of Corporate Resources; Penny Mell, Head of Policy and Transformation; Paul Walker, Chief Executive (Items 7 and 9 only) and Clive Willoughby, Member Services Technical Support Officer.

Also present: Councillors Allan Holliday and Philip Greatorex (Items 7 and 9 only).

OSC Joint 01/12 Appointment of Chairman

It was moved by Councillor Keith Hitchen, seconded by Councillor Michael McVeigh and

RESOLVED – that Councillor John Kane be appointed Chairman for this Joint meeting of the Overview and Scrutiny Internal and External committees.

OSC Joint 02/12 Arrangement of Agenda

With the permission of the Chairman, It was

RESOLVED – that

- a) Item 1 (Minutes of the External OSC meeting held on 26 April 2012) be carried over to the next OSC External meeting, and
- b) Item 7 (Update on Whitehaven Town Centre Projects: Albion Square Development and Pow Beck Stadium) be taken as the last item.

OSC Joint 03/12 Work Programme 2012-2013

Members considered the draft Work Programme for 2012/13 and were advised that this had been compiled by and agreed in principle by the Overview and Scrutiny Committee's Co-ordinating Board at its meeting on 14 May 2012 following topic suggestions made by Members and Officers.

Members were advised that once agreed, the Work Programme would be communicated to Executive and Full Council.

Members were also advised that the appropriate Overview and Scrutiny Committee would scope all future Task and Finish Groups and that members of a Task and Finish Group must have undergone the appropriate OSC training.

Councillor Henry Wormstrup expressed concern around the budgetary content of the draft Work Programme and Councillor Geoff Garrity commented that the draft Work Programme appeared to be heavily Officer led.

Councillor Keith Hitchen clarified the process for developing the Work Programme and it had then been drafted as agreed in accordance with the Work Programme Prioritisation Protocol.

It was added that the Work Programme was a live document and therefore if urgent subjects arose during the municipal year they could be considered and included in accordance with the protocol.

RESOLVED – that the draft Work Programme, as shown in Appendix 2 of the report is agreed.

OSC Joint 04/12 Copeland Borough Council Equality Scheme

The Head of Policy and Transformation introduced this item to the Joint Committee and provided a brief overview. It was stated that the Equality Officer would provide OSC Members with bi-monthly updates.

During the discussion that followed, Councillors Eileen Eastwood and Felicity Wilson expressed their support for the rural office pilot carried out in Seascale and Millom respectively.

A request was made for Equality Impact Assessment (EIA) training for all Members and that options for its delivery including face to face and online be considered. It was recommended that this was considered by the Member Development Panel.

RESOLVED – that

- a) the Copeland Borough Council Equality Scheme report be received,
- b) bi-monthly updates to OSC Internal would be provided by the Equality Officer,
- c) a request be made to the Member Development Panel for EIA training for all Members.

OSC Joint 05/12 Task and Finish Group (TFG) Scoping Brief – Asset Management of Copeland Borough Council Car Parking

The Policy and Scrutiny Support Officer introduced this item to the Joint Committee with additional detail provided by the Head of Corporate Resources.

Members raised a number of issues including:

- the way car park money was collected,
- Car Park Insurance,
- Outsourcing of car park provision,
- Income from the car parks
- Work carried out by the previous Car Park TFG
- How Equality Impact Assessments would be carried out

The meeting was advised that all these items could be considered by the TFG.

It was suggested that the responsibility as parent OSC for this Task and Finish Group be moved to the External OSC.

At this point of the meeting, Members were asked to appoint a Chair of the TFG. Councillors Eileen Eastwood, Jackie Bowman and Norman Williams were all nominated and duly seconded. A vote then took place with Councillors Eileen Eastwood receiving four votes, Jackie Bowman five votes and Norman Williams three votes.

RESOLVED – that

- a) the TFG scoping brief noted,
- b) responsibility as parent OSC for this Task and Finish Group be moved to the External OSC,
- c) The TFG is commissioned to carry out the work on behalf of the OSC on the basis of the aim outlined at 3.1 before reporting back to the Committee its findings and recommendations,
- d) Sections 2 to 10 of the report be agreed in principle, and
- e) Councillor Jackie Bowman be appointed Chair of the Asset Management of Copeland Borough Council Car Parking Task and Finish Group.

OSC Joint 06/12 Update on Whitehaven Town Centre Projects: Albion Square Development and Pow Beck Stadium

The Chief Executive gave a verbal report to the Joint OSC and began by providing Members with a brief history of the Pow Beck Stadium scheme from 2003 to present along with the reasons why it had not been feasible to continue within the timetable required.

Members were advised that a project review was underway with key partners and Copeland Borough Council would facilitate and support this review.

Discussion followed on the future role of all partners within the project and the Chief Executive and the Portfolio Holder advised that a number of options were under consideration.

During the question and answer session that followed, Members raised a number of queries about the Council's current and future involvement, the governance arrangements, communication and reputation and funding.

The Chief Executive then provided the Joint OSC Committee with a very brief overview of the Albion Square Development.

Discussion followed on the timescale of the project and the remedial site works that were necessary to ensure the project could go forward.

It was stated that the Albion Square Strategy Group was responsible for the Project Management and that a Project Manager had been appointed by the NDA.

The Chief Executive and Portfolio Holder were thanked for attending the meeting and providing Members with an update.

RESOLVED - that

a) The update is received.

The meeting closed at 12:30pm

Chairman

Date