

OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY COMMITTEE (INTERNAL)

MINUTES OF THE SPECIAL MEETING HELD ON 19 JANUARY 2012 AT 3:00PM

Present: Councillors Yvonne Clarkson (Chairman); Brian Dixon; Peter Kane; Michael McVeigh; Dave Smith; Norman Williams and Felicity Wilson.

Apologies for absence: Councillors Anne Faichney and John Park.

Officers: Jessica Hall, Policy and Scrutiny Support Officer; Joanne Wagstaffe, Director Resources and Transformation; Tim Capper, Democratic Services Manager and Clive Willoughby, Member Services Technical Support Officer.

Also Present: Glen Sanderson.

OSC Int 30/11 **Minutes**

The minutes of the meeting held on 5 December 2011 were agreed as a correct record and signed by the Chairman, subject to minute OSC Int 25/11 being amended to include a Declaration of Interest by Councillor Norman Williams.

OSC Int 31/11 **Declarations of Interest**

None

OSC Int 32/11 **Budget 2012-13**

Committee was provided with an update on the 2012-13 Budget process and consultation by Joanne Wagstaffe, Director of Resources and Transformation.

Members were advised that a budget proposal was put to the Executive in early December 2011 and Public consultation was currently underway. The consultation period was due to finish at the end of January 2012. A meeting to consider the consultation responses was arranged for 3 February with a recommendation due to be put to Full Council at the meeting on 23 February.

Committee was reminded by the Chairman that it was scrutinising the process being used and not the budget proposals themselves.

During the discussion that followed, Members stated that they thought the consultation was better than in previous years, although it had commenced at Christmas time when the offices were not open.

Committee enquired if feedback had been received from the Council staff and were advised that presentations had been made to staff as well as question and answer sessions. A number of suggestions had been made, some of which had been taken forward.

Members suggested that Copeland Matters should be used as a vehicle for seeking feedback as residents in the south of the Borough do not read the Whitehaven News.

It was asked if an Equality Impact Assessment Analysis had been made on savings from last year and Members were assured that it had been done and on an individual proposals rather than the whole.

It was noted that in addition to the Budget consultation, a separate consultation on Discretionary Concessionary Travel is also currently underway.

Committee then focussed on the Budget Consultation 2012/13 document. Members asked if the Contract savings highlighted could be achieved and were assured that work going well to meet the target set.

With regard the PFI contract, a specialist company was currently looking at the PFI contract and would be suggesting a range of options for consideration.

Members asked why the Training Budget was being reduced and were advised that the reduction was in line with the current spend. Investigations were also ongoing into more targeted 'free' training and on-line training.

It was asked if a reduction in the number of Councillors had been considered and a reduction in Members allowances. It was stated that the Local Government Boundary Commission for England could be asked to conduct a review of the number of Councillors, but had not been requested to do so.

Members were advised that income on recycling had increased recently due to an increase in the cost per tonne.

With regard to the cost of cremations, Members were advised that Copeland's charges remained less than either Barrow or Carlisle.

Joanne Wagstaffe was thanked for attending the meeting and providing additional background information to the Committee.

RESOLVED – That the update be received.

The meeting closed at 4:20pm

Chairman

Date