

OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE

MINUTES OF MEETING HELD ON 7 SEPTEMBER 2007

Present: Councillors P Connolly (Chairman); Mrs Y R T Clarkson; K Hitchen; J Kane; M McVeigh; Mrs W Metherell; R Salkeld; P Whalley.

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors Mrs E Eastwood.

Also Present: Councillor N Williams

Officers: T Capper, Democratic Services Manager; N White, Scrutiny Support Officer; H Mitchell, Head of Policy and Performance
B Gerry for Minute 18/07 only

MGT 19/07 Minutes

The minutes of the meeting held on 10 August 2007 were signed by the Chairman as a correct record.

MGT 20/07 Executive Decisions

The Committee considered the decisions from the Executive meeting on 4 September 2007.

The Committee felt that a number of local members could help the work of this working group and agreed that the Deputy Leader – Promoting Prosperity and the Head of Leisure and Environmental Services be requested to involve Cllrs N Clarkson, E Eastwood, D Wilson and J Park in the group's deliberations.

RESOLVED – that (A) the decisions from the Executive meeting on 7 August 2007 be noted, and

(B) the Deputy Leader – Promoting Prosperity and the Head of Leisure and Environmental Services be requested to involve Cllrs N Clarkson, E Eastwood, D Wilson and J Park in the deliberations of the working group looking into the Quality Coast Awards.

MGT 21/07 Forward Plan

The Committee considered the Forward Plan of the Council's Key Decisions from September to December 2007.

RESOLVED – that the Council's Forward Plan of Key Decisions from September to December 2007 be noted.

MGT 22/07 Process Improvement Team Report

The Committee considered a report on the Council's Process Improvement Team (PIT).

The Committee noted the projects completed by PIT with the changes implemented, expected benefits and whether these were cashable or non-cashable. The PIT had identified possible cashable efficiencies period from March to August 2007 of £60k.

The Committee further noted the current and future projects along with the anticipated benefits from these projects.

RESOLVED – that the report be received.

MGT 23/07 Scrutiny of The West Cumbria Strategic Partnership

The Committee considered a report on The 'Scrutiny Action Plan' that had been developed by the West Cumbria Strategic Partnership in response to a report submitted by the Joint Scrutiny Working Group of Allerdale Borough Council, Copeland Borough Council and Cumbria County Council members in 2006-07.

The Committee noted that the Working Group had agreed eleven recommendations focusing on the most part on clarifying roles and responsibilities, and on the constitution and profile of the Partnership. The working group will be monitoring and challenging the action plan to ensure that the recommendations are implemented as agreed.

The Committee further considered that an important part of the joint scrutiny work in 2007-08 will be to participate in determining the priorities in the new Strategy for Sustainable Communities Strategy and assisting in the development of the implementation plan.

RESOLVED – (A) the joint working group should continue its scrutiny of the West Cumbria Strategic Partnership by looking at:

1. Firstly, the action plan and the working group's recommendations on the partnership,
2. Secondly, monitoring the implementation of the Sustainable Communities Strategy, and

(B) Reports on the work of the Joint Working Group are brought to the Management Committee.

MGT 24/07 Performance Monitoring

The Committee considered a report on performance monitoring.

The Committee noted two reports that were set against the Council's performance against the 2007/2008 objectives in the five year Corporate Plan and progress against targets set for the Best Value Performance Indicators (BVPI).

The Committee considered that the intention of these reports was to allow it to better assess the areas of the council that may not be working as well as desired. The Committee in looking at the performance trends could then consider whether an item should be sent to one of the Overview and Scrutiny Committees for an examination of the reasons for the performance of that item.

The Committee noted that it was the intention to add to this performance management data information on budgetary under and over spends and complaints monitoring in future reports so that the committee could get an overall picture of the council's performance.

RESOLVED – that the format and information set out within the performance monitoring reports be confirmed.

MGT 25/07 Self Evaluation Framework

The Committee considered a report on a scrutiny self evaluation framework.

The Committee noted that the Centre for Public Scrutiny (CFPS) was a national organisation which was established to promote the value of scrutiny in modern and effective government and had developed a self-evaluation framework.

The Committee further noted that the "self-evaluation framework" was a mechanism for all local authorities to examine the effectiveness of their overview and scrutiny arrangements and to identify areas for improvement.

The Committee considered how the Council could best use this framework and agreed that a workshop be arranged with all members of the Overview and Scrutiny Committees to complete the evaluation. The

results of the workshop would then be analysed by the committee to evaluate how best to implement those results.

RESOLVED – that (A) a workshop be arranged with all members of the Overview and Scrutiny Committees to complete the CFPS Self - Evaluation Framework, and

(B) the results of the workshop be considered by the Overview and Scrutiny Management Committee.

MGT 26/07 **Work Plan**

The Committee considered the work plans of the Council's Overview and Scrutiny Committees.

The Committee expressed its concern at the effects of the staff shortages on service delivery in the Regeneration Department particularly on planning policy (Local Development Framework) and agreed asked that a report be submitted to its next meeting on this matter.

The Committee noted that the Property Asset Management Plan had been considered by the Executive at its meeting on 4 September and that any policy changes in the plan should be brought to the Committee for its consideration.

RESOLVED – that (A) a report be submitted to the next meeting on the effects of the staff shortages on service delivery in the Regeneration Department particularly on planning policy (Local Development Framework), and

(B) any policy changes in the Property Asset Management Plan should be brought to the Committee for its consideration.

The Meeting Closed at 12:15pm

Signed:.....

Date:.....