

OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE

MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD ON 20 DECEMBER 2007

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

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors Mrs E Eastwood and W Metherell

Officers: T Capper, Democratic Services Manager; N White, Scrutiny Support Officer; D James Members Services Officer

Minutes

The Minutes of the meeting held on the 30 November 2007 were signed by the Chairman as a correct record.

MGT 52/07 West Cumbria Strategic Partnership

Consideration was given to the notes of the Joint Authority Scrutiny Working Group held on the 15 November 2007 and Joint Authority Working Group "Affordable Housing" Task and Finish Group held on the 13 November 2007.

RESOLVED - that a) the notes of the Joint Authority Scrutiny Working Group held on the 15 November 2007 be noted; and

b) the notes of the Joint Authority Working Group "Affordable Housing" Task and Finish Group held on the 13 November 2007 be noted.

MGT 53/07 Executive Decisions

(Note Councillors P Connolly Mrs Y R T Clarkson and K Hitchen declared personal interests in Executive Decision 6 - Concessionary Travel due to being holders of bus passes;

Councillor K Hitchen declared a personal interest in Executive Decision 7 Copeland Community Fund – In Recognition of Low Level Radioactive Waste due to being a Member of Drigg and Carleton Parish Council.)

Consideration was given to the Decisions from the Executive made on 18 December 2007.

During consideration of this item it was noted that the recommendation from the Executive was to refer the whole report on concessionary travel to the

Resource Planning Working Group and subsequently the group had approved that Council be recommended that:-

a) the Council build £868,000 into the 2008/09 revenue budget to cover the costs of the Council's concessionary travel schemes; and

b) the Council's discretionary concessionary travel be continued and the value of the travel vouchers be increased to £25

it was noted that the remainder of the recommendations c-j, falling outside the terms of reference of the Resource Planning Working Group, would be referred back to the Executive for consideration.

With regard to recommendation e) to make a further allowance towards concessionary during the Maritime Festival Weekend, Members asked for clarification following the recent announcement that the Maritime Festival would now not be going ahead. It was noted that until the Council had been officially notified then this recommendation would stand. It was felt that the possibility of including other events in Copeland could be looked into at a future date.

RESOLVED – that the decisions from the Executive meeting on 27 November 2007 be noted.

MGT 54/07 Forward Plan

The Committee considered the Forward Plan of Key Decisions - December 2007 to March 2008.

RESOLVED – that the Forward Plan of Key Decisions - December 2007 to March 2008 be noted.

MGT 55/07 Work Plan

The Committee considered the Work Plans of all the Council's Overview and Scrutiny Committees.

During consideration of this item Members asked for an update on the statistics relating to calls aborted through the contact central switchboard however, it was noted that this was the subject of a question asked at Council and the response would be issued to all Members upon receipt of the information. It was agreed that the Customer Services Manager or nominee be asked to attend a future meeting of the Committee to discuss progress made with Complaints Monitoring.

It was noted that the Joint Meeting with the County Council on Mental Health was being held on the 3 January 2008 and the Members asked that any question be directed to the Scrutiny Support Officer.

During consideration of this item Members requested that the Business Development Manager be asked to attend a future meeting to discuss The Council's Property Asset Management Plan and proposals to change Council Policy.

Members asked for an update on the current position with regard to proposals put forward by OSC Safer and Stronger on the Energy Policy, it was noted that input was being sought at Corporate Director Level and then this would be resubmitted to the Executive for consideration.

RESOLVED – that (a) the Work Plans be noted;

(b) the Head of Customer Services or nominee be asked to attend a future meeting of the Committee to discuss progress made with Complaints Monitoring;

(c) the Head of Business Development be asked to attend a future meeting to discuss the Council's Property Asset Management Plan and any proposed changes to Policy.

MGT 56/07 G3 Meeting with Chair and Vice Chair OSC Management Committee

The Deputy Chairman Overview and Scrutiny Management Committee updated Members of a meeting held with the Chair and Deputy of OSC Management and the G3. It was noted that these meetings would continue to take place every two months and address issues of concern; items from regional and national sources; look at and influence items in the Work Plans.

Recommendations from the meeting were considered: -

- a) to consider setting up a working group to look at how Copeland is performing against its targets under the Local Area Agreement , Local Strategic Partnership and West Cumbria Strategic Partnership;
- b) add an item to look at the customer first culture at the council - at whether the Council is providing the services the public want, how the Council is communicating to the public and how it is seeking to raise customer satisfaction in the Council;
- c) the Head of Policy and Performance attends future meetings of the Management Committee to ensure that the Committee is fully informed on the Executive's decisions and the reason for those decisions;
- d) the University of Cumbria be contacted to find out if a graduate calibre resource would be available for a short term to do some specific work to help a scrutiny review of the Energy Coast Master Plan.

RESOLVED – that (a) a Member working group be established to look at how Copeland is performing against its targets under the Local Area Agreement, Local Strategic Partnership and West Cumbria Strategic Partnership;

b) the customer first culture at the Council be included on the Management Committee Agenda to look at whether the Council is providing the services the public want, how the Council is communicating to the public and how it is seeking to raise customer satisfaction in the council;

c) the Head of Policy and Performance be asked to attend future meetings of the Management Committee to ensure that the Committee is fully informed on the Executive's decisions and the reason for those decisions;

d) the University of Cumbria be contacted to find out if a graduate calibre resource would be available for a short term to do some specific work to help a scrutiny review of the Energy Coast Master Plan.

The meeting closed at 11.55am

Chairman