

## **OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE**

### **MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD ON 30 MAY 2008**

Present: Councillors Mrs Y R T Clarkson; Mrs E Eastwood; J Kane; M McVeigh; Mrs W Metherell and C Whiteside.

Also present: Councillor Miss E Woodburn.

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors P Connolly; R Pitt and P Whalley.

Officers: N White, Scrutiny Support Officer; T Capper, Democratic Services Manager; C Willoughby, Members Services Technical Support Officer.

#### **Minutes**

The Minutes of the meeting held on 11 April 2008 were signed by the Chairman as a correct record.

#### **MGT 01/08 Appointment of Chairman**

In the absence of Councillor Connolly (Chairman) and Councillor Pitt (Deputy Chairman), it was moved by Councillor McVeigh, duly seconded and **AGREED** that Councillor Mrs Y Clarkson be appointed Chairman for this meeting.

#### **MGT 02/08 Joint Scrutiny – The Proposed Way Forward**

The Committee considered the way forward for Joint Scrutiny in Cumbria in the light of proposed changes in the Local Government and Public Involvement in Health Act 2007.

Members were advised that the proposed remit for the Joint Overview and Scrutiny Committee would be to:

- a) Provide strategic scrutiny challenge of the Local Area Agreement (LAA) and the mechanisms in place to lead and deliver it, including the Cumbria Strategic Partnership, associated bodies and partner authorities.
- b) To receive performance monitoring data for the LAA, by linking into the CSP performance reporting cycle and identifying issues for joint review or alerting Districts to local pockets of under-performance.
- c) To monitor Councillor Calls for Action (CCfA) at each authority and/or identify joint pieces of scrutiny work arising from the CCfA process.
- d) To continue to consider the management and co-ordination of 'joint' scrutiny across the County.

- e) To receive 'concerns' from any of the authorities' scrutiny committees on areas of under-performance locally.
- f) To provide a co-ordination forum for reports on the LAA (responding to the new powers of Districts to submit reports to the County on LAA matters). This would avoid the risk of duplication of scrutiny work between authorities.

Members were further advised that the creation of a greater role for the Joint Committee with officer support would enable a better examination of the effectiveness of the LAA and would be a cheaper option and better value for money than each of the separate councils paying for officer support. Accordingly, it is proposed that the new joint scrutiny committee is properly resourced and managed by a full-time dedicated officer and (part-time) administrative support. The total cost being calculated at £55k.

The Joint Scrutiny Members at their meeting agreed that the member authorities of Cumbria Local Authorities Strategic Board (CLASB) is asked to consider jointly funding this initiative using the CLASB partnership funding protocol.

So far, Allerdale, Carlisle and Eden Councils have considered this and have agreed, in principle, to fund their part of the joint posts subject to CLASB funding.

The CLASB funding rules are that 50% of the cost is paid for by the County Council with the other 50% being paid proportionately by the six District/Borough Councils on a per head of population basis. If all the authorities sign up to the proposal the cost to Copeland would be £4,580.

**RESOLVED** – that the proposals to take Joint Scrutiny forward across Cumbria be supported.

#### **MGT 03/08    Overview and Scrutiny Work Plan 2008/2009**

The Committee considered the consultation responses of items for inclusion to the Council's Overview and Scrutiny Committees Work Plans 2008/2009.

During consideration of this item it was recommended that each of the Committee Chairs meet with their respective Portfolio Holders to discuss any issues they want included in the Work Plan. The Portfolio Holder should then be invited to attend the meeting of the Overview and Scrutiny Committee.

The Committee made a number of amendments to the Work Plan and agreed that each of the Overview and Scrutiny Committees should consider these amendments in making its own Work Plan.

The Terms of Reference for each Overview and Scrutiny Committee

**RESOLVED** – that

- a) the Overview and Scrutiny Work Plan for 2008/2009 be submitted to each of the Overview and Scrutiny Committees to consider the amendments when making its own Work Plan.
- b) the Terms of Reference for each Overview and Scrutiny Committee be agreed at the first meeting of each committee

**MGT 04/08     Urgent Actions**

The Committee were updated on the use of Urgent Actions since procedural changes had been made in September 2007. It was believed that the high figures for March and April 2008 could be a 'blip' and therefore suggested that the Council's Urgent Actions continue to be monitored and enforced vigorously.

**RESOLVED** – that the changes to the Council's Urgent Action procedure continue to be monitored and enforced vigorously, with a further review in 6 months.

**MGT 05/08     Executive Decisions**

The Decision made by the Executive at its meeting on the 27 May 2008 were considered and noted.

The meeting closed at 5.10pm

Chairman