

OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY COMMITTEE (INTERNAL)

MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD ON 22 NOVEMBER 2010 AT 5:00PM

Present: Councillors Mrs Y Clarkson (Chairman); Mrs A Faichney;
J Kane; A Mossop; J Park; R Salkeld and Mrs J Williams.

Also in attendance Councillors J Bowman; N Clarkson; G Garrity; D Moore;
A Norwood and C Whiteside.

Apologies for absence: Councillor Mrs M Docherty

Officers: P Walker, Chief Executive; J Hall, Scrutiny Support Officer;
J Wagstaffe, Corporate Director for Resources and Transformation; T Capper,
Democratic Services Manager; M Jepson, Head of Legal and Democratic
Services; A Brown, Acting Head of Finance and C Willoughby, Member Services
Technical Support Officer.

OSC1 22/10 Chairman's Opening Remarks

The Chairman began the meeting by welcoming Members, Members of the
Public and the Press.

OSC1 23/10 Minutes

The minutes of the meetings held on 27 September 2010 and 8 November 2010
were signed by the Chairman as a correct record.

**OSC1 24/10 Whitehaven Rugby League Football Club – Review of the Role of Council
Members**

The Chair reported that one Member had contacted her expressing concern that
those interviewed by the Chief Executive had not been listed in the report.

The Chief Executive presented to Committee his report setting out the results of
an investigation into the role of Council Members appointed to the Board of the
Whitehaven Rugby League Football Club, as requested by this Committee on
27 September 2010.

This report included detailed answers to the specific questions raised by
Members, together with a number of recommendations.

The main finding of the report was that although there are lessons to be learned
by the Council, there was no evidence of improper conduct by Members that had
led to any financial loss for Copeland Borough Council.

The Chief executive explained that his investigation had determined that there were lessons to be learned by the Council in terms of processes and procedures, in particular relating to Members on outside bodies and reporting back, but there was no evidence of improper conduct by Members that had led to any financial loss for Copeland Borough Council.

Attention was drawn to recommendation ii) and it was agreed that Overview and Scrutiny would review reporting back procedures at its next meeting.

During a lengthy discussion that followed, Members also questioned further an amount of £500,000 held by West Cumbria Development Fund of which two withdrawals have been made. One amount of £100,000 and one for £44,530. It was requested that a copy of the West Cumbria Development Fund documents be made available to the Members and members of the Public present as an addendum to the main report.

Members thanked the Chief Executive for a thorough report.

It was proposed by Councillor Mossop, seconded by Councillor Kane and duly

RESOLVED – that

- a) the report be received,
- b) the recommendations be agreed, and
- c) a copy of the West Cumbria Development Fund documents be made available as an addendum to the report, subject to the agreement of the West Cumbria Development Fund.

OSC1 25/10 Update Medium Term Financial Strategy and Budget Build 2011/12

Committee considered a report on the updated Medium Term Financial Strategy and Budget Build 2011/2012 which was presented by the Corporate Director for Resources and Transformation.

It was stated that the report was still in draft and uses details available after the Comprehensive Spending Review. More details will be available after the first week of December and the report will then be updated and brought back to this committee at the January 2011 meeting.

RESOLVED – that the report be noted.

OSC1 26/10 Work Programme 2010-2011

The Committee considered the Work Programme for 2010-2011 for this Committee.

It was noted that Achieving Equality Impact Assessments were to be held on 29 and 30 November 2010.

The item on Housing Strategy was awaiting further details and remained pending.

Items on Service Review Process, Role of Overview and Scrutiny in the Budget Process, Budget Timetable and Medium Term Financial Strategy, Impact of the Comprehensive Spending Review, Services Reviews 2010/11, Whitehaven Rugby League Football Club – review of Role of Council Members, Update Medium Term Financial Strategy and Budget Build 2011/12, Capital Programme Proposals and Treasury Management are all to be removed from the Work Programme.

The Chief Executive's recommendation that the committee review reporting back procedures for Members, following his report on the Whitehaven Rugby League Club be added to the Work Programme.

It was suggested that due to the amount of business outstanding, a further meeting of this Committee be arranged.

RESOLVED – that

- a) the Work Programme be updated, and
- b) an additional meeting of this Committee be arranged.

The meeting closed at 7.00 pm

Chairman

Date