

OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY COMMITTEE 2 (EXTERNAL)

MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD ON 3 FEBRUARY 2011 AT 2:00PM

Present: Councillors G Garrity (Chairman); K Hitchen (Deputy Chairman); D Banks; Mrs E Eastwood; S Meteer; P Tyson; C Whiteside; Mrs M Woodburn and H Wormstrup

Officers: J Hall, Overview and Scrutiny Support Officer; J Wagstaffe, Corporate Director, Resources and Transformation; M Jepson, Head of Legal and Democratic Services; T Capper, Democratic Services Manager; K Parker, Head of Leisure and Environmental Services; D Toner, Street Infrastructure Officer and C Willoughby, Member Services Technical Support Officer.

Apologies for absence: None

Also present: Councillors G Clements; A Holliday; J Jackson; J Kane; D Moore; J Park and N Williams.
Mr N O'Key, Cumbria Fire & Rescue Service; Mr A Cunningham and Ms K Young.

OSC2 18/10 Minutes

The Minutes of the meeting held on 14 October 2010 were signed by the Chairman as a correct record.

OSC2 19/10 Declarations of Interest

Councillor D Moore declared a personal interest in Agenda Item 7 due to being an employee of Cumbria Fire and Rescue Service.
Councillor P Tyson declared a personal interest in Agenda Item 8 due to his daughter working for the NHS.

OSC2 20/10 Petition – Kells Lighting

The Street Infrastructure Officer introduced to Committee a petition from Kells residents requesting that lighting be provided in two open areas to the rear of residential properties just off High Road.

During discussion of this item, Members asked for clarification of the Council's lighting policy across the Borough.
Members also asked for a Land Registry check to be made regarding the ownership of the land in question.

It was suggested that a Community Group be set up which Copeland Borough Council could help in trying to locate funding.

RESOLVED – That

- a) the Kells Lighting Petition be received, and
- b) a Land Registry check be made regarding ownership of the land in question.

OSC2 21/10 Cumbria Fire and Rescue Service

Members received a presentation from Mr N O'Key, Locality Manager for Cumbria Fire and Rescue Service on proposed changes to the cover provided as a result of the Government's Comprehensive Spending Review.

This included an overview of the budgetary proposals for the Fire and Rescue Service including proposals which were not to be acted upon and those which remained under consideration.

Members were then given the opportunity to ask questions, during which the possible recruitment of retained firefighters and instances when there had been no fire and rescue cover between Workington and Millom were raised.

Mr O'Key stressed that the suggestions put forward were only proposals at present and he offered to return after final budget decisions had been made by Cumbria County Council.

Members thanked Mr O'Key for his presentation.

The Whitehaven Fire Station Improvement Group was also thanked for its work and a suggestion was made that it reconvene during the next week to form a response before the consultation period closes.

RESOLVED – That

- a) the presentation from Mr O'Key be received, and
- b) the Fire Station Improvement Group be asked to reconvene before the consultation period closes and to conclude business.

OSC2 22/10 Update report on the work of the Cumbria Health and Wellbeing Scrutiny Committee

Councillor Wormstrup wished it recorded that he was pleased to see a report from an Outside Body being made to the Committee.

Councillor Garrity then updated Members on the work of the Cumbria Health and Wellbeing Scrutiny Committee.

This included staff from Newcastle working in West Cumbria for the next three years providing training on the Breast Screening Unit.

Councillor Garrity also reported that a meeting to consider GP commissioning was to be held on 1 March 2011 and that he would attend.

RESOLVED – That the update from Councillor Garrity be received

OSC2 23/10 Closure of Whitehaven Magistrates Court/County Court Update

A letter from Gill Hague, Area Director, Her Majesty's Courts Service was circulated to Members and a verbal update was provided by the Overview and Scrutiny Support Officer.

Members expressed disappointment at the decision to close the Courts in Whitehaven.

It was suggested that an open letter be sent to Kenneth Clarke, Secretary of State for Justice, and Eric Pickles, Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government, expressing the disapproval of the Overview and Scrutiny Committee at the decision and the way in which the consultation had been conducted.

RESOLVED – That

- a) the update on the closure of the courts in Whitehaven be received, and
- b) an open letter be sent to the Secretary of State for Justice and Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government expressing the disapproval of the Overview and Scrutiny Committee at the decision and the way in which the consultation had been conducted.

OSC2 24/10 Forward Plan

Committee considered the Forward Plan of the Council's Executive. It was noted that the OSC Internal Committee will be looking at the Housing Needs Survey alongside the Housing Strategy within the next couple of weeks.

RESOLVED – That the Forward Plan be noted.

OSC2 25/10 Work Programme 2010-11

Committee considered the Work Programme for the remainder of 2010-11.

It was suggested that the Copeland Regeneration Plan Improvement Group be held over until after the Borough Election in May.

It was further suggested that the Good Roads and Public Transport Improvement Group be moved to an agenda item for the next meeting. Members then agreed that any scope would be reduced to look at Good Roads at the next meeting

RESOLVED – That

- a) the Work Programme 2010-11 be received and updated,
- b) the Copeland Regeneration Plan Improvement Group be held over until after the Borough Elections in May, and
- c) the Good Roads be an agenda item for the next meeting.

The meeting closed at 4:35 pm

Chairman.....

Date.....