

REPORT OF THE INFORMAL CO-ORDINATING BOARD

LEAD MEMBERS: Councillors G Garrity and YRT Clarkson

REPORT AUTHOR: Jessica Hall, Overview and Scrutiny Support Officer

Summary: The report updates the Overview and Scrutiny Committee on the work of the Informal Co-ordinating Board since the 24 June 2010

RECOMMENDATIONS:

That the Overview and Scrutiny Committee note the report.

1. BACKGROUND

1.1 On 24 June 2010, Council agreed the new two committee structure with an informal co-ordinating board, made up of the OSC Chairs and Deputy Chairs. It was agreed that the board would have the following remit:

- Liaise with the Executive and Corporate Management Team
- Act as a communicating body generally between the two committees including overview of the work programmes and priorities to avoid duplication and contribute to the efficient running of the business
- Report to the committees on their work between meetings.

1.2 The Chairs and Deputy Chairs agreed that they would meet every fortnight with the Overview and Scrutiny Support Officer. Notes of the meeting would then be circulated to all Overview and Scrutiny members for information.

2. WORK UNDERTAKEN

2.1 *Monday 21 June 2010*

The board met to consider topics suggested for the work programme alongside the Work Programme Prioritisation protocol, and agree final arrangements for an Overview and Scrutiny workshop on Friday 25 June 2010.

A number of Overview and Scrutiny members attended the workshop. The first part of the workshop enabled members to go through the new protocols and ask questions. During the second part of the workshop the group split into their committees to consider topics and identify their priority areas.

2.2 Monday 5 July 2010

The board considered the Statement of Executive decisions, arrangements for addressing the full Council referral to Overview and Scrutiny on Whitehaven Fire Station, the proposed closure of Whitehaven Magistrates and County Court (which would be submitted to the External OSC work programme for August) and training.

The board welcomed further member training opportunities. OSC members would receive training from Arnie Skelton on 'Facilitating Improvement Groups', an area recognised as requiring specific skills. There will be two training sessions on 5 August 2010.

The group also received a presentation from Alison Walton, Equalities Officer on the purpose of Equality Impact Assessments. The board heard how the Council would be assessed by the IDeA Peer Challenge Team which would be at the Council on the 29 and 30 of November 2010. Overview and Scrutiny will have an important role to play. Internal OSC is required to identify a Member Champion. Alison will be attending the committee on 27 September 2010.

2.3 Monday 19 July 2010

The board considered and approved the draft work programmes for presentation to the first meetings on 2 August 2010 and 19 August 2010.

The board also decided to trial pre-meetings. These will take place an hour and a half prior to the formal meeting and will enable all Members to be involved in the preparation.

3. FUTURE MEETINGS

3.1 As outlined at 1.2 the co-ordinating board was meeting on a fortnightly basis while the Work Programme was under development. However the board has decided to reduce the frequency of meetings and meet on an 'as and when necessary' basis.

Background papers: Notes of the Chairs and Deputy Chairs Meeting dated Monday 5 July 2010 and Monday 19 July 2010.