

OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY COMMITTEE

MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD ON 11 JUNE 2014 AT 2:00PM

Present: Councillors: John Kane, Chairman; David Banks; Jackie Bowman; George Clements; Sam Pollen; Gilbert Scurrah; Dave Smith; Felicity Wilson; Carole Woodman and Henry Wormstrup.

Apologies for Absence: Councillor Eileen Eastwood and Ian Hill.

Officers: Andrea Smith; Policy and Scrutiny Officer; Tim Capper, Democratic Services Manager and Clive Willoughby, Member Services Technical Support Officer.
Paul Walker, Chief Executive (for items 13, 11, 9 & 8 only)
John Groves, Strategic Nuclear and Planning Manager (for item 13 only)
Ann Treble, Financial Management & Treasury Accountant (for item 9 only)
Julie Betteridge, Head of Customer and Community Services (for items 15 & 16 only)

Also Present: Councillor Geoff Garrity.

OSC 01/14

Minutes

The Minutes of the meetings held on 9 April 2014 were signed by the Chairman as a correct record.

OSC 02/14

Appointment of Deputy Chairman

It was moved by Councillor Dave Smith, duly seconded and

RESOLVED – that Councillor Jackie Bowman be appointed Deputy Chairman of this Committee for the current municipal year.

OSC 03/14

Arrangement of the Agenda

With the permission of the Chairman, it was agreed that agenda Item 13 (Policy Review – Localism and Community Rights Policies) be taken first followed by Item 11 (Report of the Member representative to the Cumbria Health Scrutiny Committee), then Item 9 (Financial Monitoring).

OSC 04/14

Policy Review – Localism and Community Rights Policies

Members received an update from the Strategic Nuclear and Planning Manager on the Policy Review – Localism and Community Rights Policies which had been previously considered by Committee at the meeting on 9 April 2014.

It was noted that to date, three ‘Rights to Bid’ had been received.

Members were advised that in the last three years, nine parcels of land had been sold.

During the discussion that followed, Members asked to be provided with an extensive Asset List of all Copeland Borough Council owned land and, if possible, that this be shown by Ward.

Members enquired if a ‘Locality Group’ was eligible for Community Asset Transfers and were advised they were not.

The Strategic Nuclear and Planning Manager was thanked for the update.

RESOLVED – that

- a) The update be received, and
- b) An extensive Asset List of all Copeland Borough Council owned land by Ward if possible be made available to all Members.

OSC 05/14

Report of the Member representative to the Cumbria Health Scrutiny Committee

The Member representative, Councillor Geoff Garrity updated the meeting on the Cumbria Health Scrutiny Committee and advised that the next meeting of the committee would be taking place shortly.

Committee was advised that the new Hospital build was ahead of schedule.

During the discussion that followed, Members asked if Paul Musgrove from Cumbria County Council Public Health could be invited to a future meeting of this committee after the publication of the health report due at the end of June 2014.

RESOLVED – that

- a) the update be noted, and
- b) Paul Musgrove from Cumbria County Council Public Health be invited to a future meeting of this committee.

OSC 06/14

Financial Monitoring – Outturn Report

The Financial Management & Treasury Accountant provided Members with an overview of the Outturn Reports 2013/14 and a more detailed assessment of the Revenue Budget – Provisional Outturn Report 2013/14, which had previously been reported to the Executive.

Members were particularly interested in the underspend in the mainstream budget of £962k and were advised that due to a number of staff vacancies, some planned projects could not be supported which had contributed to this amount.

Committee was concerned that the public would view the underspend as a council failing when services are being cut.

The Financial Management & Treasury Accountant was thanked for a comprehensive report.

RESOLVED – that the update be noted.

OSC 07/14

Executive Forward Plan

Committee considered the Forward Plan of the Council’s Executive for the period June 2014 – September 2014.

Members were advised that Angela George, as Interim Financial Services Manager, replaces Darienne Law in the Executive Forward Plan.

RESOLVED – That Executive Forward Plan be noted.

OSC 08/14

Corporate Plan Performance Report – Quarter 4

The Democratic Services Manager introduced the Corporate Plan Performance Report – Quarter 4, 2013/14 to Committee.

During discussion of this item, Members believed that the Revenue and Benefits Shared Service was not successful as figures indicated it was worse than before Shared Service. It was therefore suggested that this be a subject to add to the OSC Workplan.

RESOLVED – that

- a) the update be noted, and
- b) Revenue and Benefits Shared Service be added as a subject on the OSC Workplan.

OSC 09/14

Work Programme

Members were formally introduced to, and welcomed the appointment of a new Policy and Scrutiny Officer.

Committee was advised that a letter had been sent to all Members and Partners inviting subjects for inclusion on the Workplan. The deadline for responses being 4 July 2014 and in addition to postal replies, a dedicated email address had also been set up.

It was suggested that a small Task & Finish Group be established to look at the replies in order that they can be evaluated and prioritised.

RESOLVED – that

- a) the Work Programme update be noted, and
- b) a Task & Finish Group comprising of Councillors John Kane, Jackie Bowman and Felicity Wilson be established to look at the replies in order that they can be prioritised.

OSC 10/14

Overview and Scrutiny Committee Training 2014-15

Members were advised that a Training Programme would be developed with the needs of Overview and Scrutiny Members in mind, however, the training would be open to all Members.

This would include a session on Equality and Diversity.

RESOLVED – that the Overview and Scrutiny Committee Training 2014-15 update be noted.

OSC 11/14

Update on progress of Whitehaven YMCA

The Head of Customer and Community Services provided Members with a brief verbal update on the Whitehaven YMCA project.

It was reported that the Foyer Project was progressing well and was looking at an opening date of October 2015.

RESOLVED – that the update on the progress of Whitehaven YMCA (Foyer project) be noted.

OSC 12/14

Beacon Museum Update

Members received a verbal update on the Beacon Museum from the Head of Customer and Community Services. They were advised that the Beacon Business Plan had been completed and that Copeland Borough Council was the lead on the project.

During the discussion that followed, Members expressed their delight at the Beacon re-opening and stated that the late Beacon Manager, Sue Palmer, must take a lot of credit for this being the case.

Members also asked if they could be involved in the running of the Beacon.

RESOLVED – that the update on the Beacon Museum be noted.

OSC 13/14

Vote of Thanks to Tim Capper

The Overview and Scrutiny Committee supported the Chairman in thanking the Democratic Services Manager, Tim Capper, for the support and guidance he has provided the Committee over many years and wished him well in his retirement.

The meeting closed at 4:20pm

Chairman

Date