

OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY COMMITTEE

MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD ON 3 DECEMBER 2013 AT 10:00AM

Present: Councillors John Kane (Chair); David Banks; Jackie Bowman; Eileen Eastwood; Ian Hill; Sam Pollen; Gilbert Scurrah and Henry Wormstrup.

Apologies for Absence: Councillors Dave Smith and Felicity Wilson

Officers: Paul Walker, Chief Executive; Darienne Law, Head of Corporate Resources; Tim Capper, Democratic Services Manager; Ian Curwen, Communications Manager and Clive Willoughby, Member Services Technical Support Officer.

Also present: Councillor Gillian Troughton

OSC 27/13

Minutes

The Minutes of the meeting held on 10 October 2013 were signed by the Chairman as a correct record.

OSC 28/13

Executive Forward Plan

Committee considered the Forward Plan of the Council's Executive for the period November 2013 – February 2014.

RESOLVED – That the Forward Plan be noted.

OSC 29/13

Financial Monitoring

Members received from the Head of Corporate Resources, an overview of the Financial Monitoring Reports for Quarter 2, 2012-13.

This included the Capital Budget, Revenue Budget and the Treasury Management reports which had previously been taken to the Executive meeting on 19 November.

Within the Capital report, areas of slippage and underspend were highlighted. An update on the status of projects was also provided.

Members were reminded that a training session on Local Government Finance and Funding had been arranged for 23 January 2014 at 2:00pm.

RESOLVED – That the Financial Monitoring Report Quarter 4, 2012-13 be noted.

OSC 30/13

Performance Monitoring

The Chief Executive provided Members with a summary of the Corporate Plan Performance Report Quarter 2, 2013-14 that had previously been taken to the Executive on 19 November 2013 and highlighted those items which were 'On Target' and those which were 'Off Target'.

Officers were congratulated by Members for their work on the Local Enterprise Partnership.

During discussions, it was suggested that Copeland fails to communicate what the Council is doing well and that communications need to be improved.

It was also suggested that the way funding is obtained from the Copeland Community Fund be looked at, particularly where relatively small grants are being requested.

RESOLVED – that the Performance monitoring update be received.

OSC 31/13

Report of the Member representative to the Cumbria Health Scrutiny Committee

The Member representative, Councillor Geoff Garrity was not present at the meeting and it was suggested that this item be deferred until the next normal meeting.

RESOLVED – that the report be deferred until the next normal meeting.

OSC 32/13

Progress Reports/Final Reports from Public Sector Partner Priority Task Groups

No Items reported at this meeting.

OSC 33/13

Work Programme

Members considered the Committee's Work Programme.

During discussion of this item, Members requested an update on the currently vacant post of Scrutiny Officer. The re-introduction of Scrutiny Pre-Meetings was also suggested.

RESOLVED – that the Work Programme be noted.

Process and Public Consultation for the Budget 2014-15

The Communications Manager provided Members with an overview of the process for public consultation on the budget for 2014-15.

Members enquired regarding the implication on staff numbers of the budget cuts.

It was stated that the feedback received so far, was less than at the same time last year.

Members suggested that copies of the consultation feedback form be made available in local libraries and that Town and Parish Councils be asked to add a link to it from their websites.

Any further suggestions were requested to be sent direct to the Communications Team.

RESOLVED – that the update on the Process and Public consultation for the budget 2014-15 be noted

The meeting closed at 11:50 pm

Chairman

Date