

JOINT OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY COMMITTEE (INTERNAL & EXTERNAL)

MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD ON 15 APRIL 2013 AT 2:00PM

Present: Councillors Keith Hitchen (Chair); John Kane; Eileen Eastwood; Dave Banks; Brian Dixon; Geoff Garrity; Lena Hogg; Michael McVeigh; Robert Salkeld; Dave Smith; William Southward; Peter Stephenson and Felicity Wilson.

Apologies for absence: Councillors Jackie Bowman; Peter Kane; John Park and Henry Wormstrup.

Officers: Jessica Hall, Policy and Scrutiny Support Officer and Clive Willoughby, Member Services Technical Support Officer.

Penny Mell, Head of Policy and Transformation (for Item 7 only).

Julie Betteridge, Head of Development Strategy and Debbie Cochrane, Housing Services Manager (for Item 8 only)

Also present: Councillor John Bowman (for Item 7 only).

Councillor George Clements (for Item 8 only).

OSC Joint 20/12 Minutes

The Minutes of the Joint OSC meeting held on 17 January 2013, the OSC External meeting held on 17 September 2012 and the OSC Internal meetings held on 6 August 2012, 29 August 2012 and 26 September 2012 were signed by the Chairman as a correct record.

OSC Joint 21/12 Arrangement of Agenda Items

It was agreed that Item 9 (OSC Work Programme) would be taken after Item 6 (Future of Overview and Scrutiny – Structure and Priorities).

OSC Joint 22/12 Future of Overview and Scrutiny – Structure and Priorities

The Policy and Scrutiny Support Officer provided Members with background to and an overview of the recommendations for the future of Overview and Scrutiny at the Council.

During the discussion that followed, Members asked for clarification of the Overview and Scrutiny budget for 2013-14.

Members also requested that both OSC Chairs be asked to make representation to their respective Group Leaders that when appointing Members to the Overview and Scrutiny Committee that they appoint only those Members who are prepared to play

an active part in the work and who have committed to the appropriate training.

Committee stated it was unsure who Copeland's current partners were and requested a definitive list be prepared and made available.

RESOLVED – that the recommendations a) to g) listed in the report be agreed, these being:-

- a) Members note the Corporate Plan priorities for 2013-15;
- b) Members note section 3 of the report and the context within which the review and proposals have been undertaken and developed;
- c) Members consider the proposed areas of focus for Overview and Scrutiny at 4.1.3 of the report and agree and recommend them to Full Council;
- d) Members agree and recommend the establishment of Public Sector Partner Priority Task Groups (PSPGs) in which partnership scrutiny work will be undertaken;
- e) Members agree and recommend the restructure of the Overview and Scrutiny function from two committees to one politically balanced committee of 13 Members including a Chair and Deputy Chair;
- f) Work takes place with the Member Development Panel to put in place in year training and awareness which identifies the in-house capacity and other resources available to meet specific personal and professional development needs of Overview and Scrutiny Members;
- g) Member note that subject to the approval of the proposals, the Overview and Scrutiny protocols as contained within the Constitution will be revised and updated;

It was further **RESOLVED** – that

- 1) clarification of the Overview and Scrutiny budget for 2013-14 be obtained and members notified.
- 2) both OSC Chairs be asked to make representation to their respective Group Leaders that when appointing Members to the Overview and Scrutiny Committee that they appoint only those Members who are prepared to play an active part in the work and who have committed to the appropriate training.
- 3) A definitive list of Copeland's partners be prepared and made available.

OSC Joint 23/12 OSC Work Programme

Members considered the Work Programme for 2012/13.

It was noted that item 1 - Scrutiny of the Community Safety Partnership and Item 5 – Copeland Borough Council Equality Scheme were to be carried forward to the next Municipal Year.

Members were advised that the 2013-14 OSC Work Programme was being developed.

RESOLVED – that the updated Work Programme be noted.

OSC Joint 24/12 Customer Service Strategy

The Head of Policy and Transformation provided Members with an update on the Customer Services Strategy 2012-2015. This included the background, progress to date and the actions to be taken going forward.

Members requested that comparative data be made available to the Overview and Scrutiny Committee when it reviews this item again in six months.

RESOLVED – that the report be noted.

OSC Joint 25/12 Homelessness Strategy

The Head of Development Strategy introduced this item to Committee and the Housing Services Manager provided an overview and further detail.

Members were advised that the draft Strategy and Action Plan would be circulated in August when all Members would have the opportunity to provide comment.

Committee requested that a letter of thanks be sent to the Housing Services Manager and her team for their hard work and commitment.

RESOLVED – that

- a) the update be received,
- b) a letter of thanks be sent to the Housing Services Manager and her team for their hard work and commitment.

The meeting closed at 4:00 pm

Chairman

Date