

## **JOINT OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY COMMITTEE (INTERNAL & EXTERNAL)**

### **MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD ON 21 NOVEMBER 2012 AT 10:00AM**

Present: Councillors Keith Hitchen; John Kane; Eileen Eastwood; Henry Wormstrup; Dave Banks; Jackie Bowman; Lena Hogg; Robert Salkeld; John Park and Norman Williams

Apologies for absence: Councillors Geoff Garrity; Peter Kane; Michael McVeigh; Peter Stephenson; Dave Smith; William Southward and Felicity Wilson.

Officers: Jessica Hall, Policy and Scrutiny Support Officer; Paul Walker, Chief Executive; Ann Treble, Financial Management and Treasury Accountant and Clive Willoughby, Member Services Technical Support Officer.

Also present: Councillors John Bowman and George Clements.

#### **OSC Joint 07/12 Appointment of Chairman**

It was moved by Councillor Henry Wormstrup, seconded by Councillor Eileen Eastwood and

**RESOLVED** – that Councillor Keith Hitchen be appointed Chairman for this Joint meeting of the Overview and Scrutiny Internal and External committees. It was further agreed that the Chairmanship of Joint Overview and Scrutiny Committee meetings be alternated between Councillors Keith Hitchen and John Kane.

#### **OSC Joint 08/12 Declarations of Interest**

Councillor David Banks declared a non-pecuniary interest in Agenda item 7 (Consultation on Proposed Budget Savings 2013-15 The Future Role of the Council) due to being a member of Phoenix Enterprise.

#### **OSC Joint 09/12 Budget Consultation**

Members received an introduction to the 2013-2015 Budget Consultation process from the Chief Executive and an overview of the proposed budget savings.

Members were advised that the Chancellor of the Exchequer would be making his autumn statement in Parliament on 5 December 2012 and the Grant for Local Authorities for the next two years would be known on 19 December 2012. It was therefore possible that the recommendations for budget savings may be revised after that date.

It was highlighted that the proposals concentrate on delivering Statutory services and that as services reduce, management costs would also diminish.

Members were advised that the public consultation had been underway for some weeks, however to date only approximately 140 formal responses had been received.

Drop in sessions had also commenced with a session on Community Asset Transfer also to be held.

It was also planned to conduct a Review of Grants to Local Groups and explore other opportunities for funding.

The Financial Management and Treasury Accountant provided Committee with an overview of Council's financial position and circulated a timetable for the Budget Process 2013/14, as shown below:-

**Timetable for budget Process 2013/14**

5 Dec 2012	Chancellors Autumn Statement.
6 Dec 2012	Council meet, will receive LSCT and request to shorten consultation period from 6 weeks (in our constitution) to 4 weeks statutory.
7 Dec 2012	Current public consultation ends.
18 Dec 2012	Executive meet, will receive a report on outcome of public consultation and some revenue budget figures (note settlement figure not yet received), capital criteria report and Treasury Management Strategy.
19 Dec 2012	Receive Government settlement figures.
w/c 7 Jan 2013	Executive meet, will receive updated budget reports including settlement figures. Public consultation period of 4 weeks on budget proposals commences.
17 Jan 2013	OSC meet, will receive updated budget papers as part of public consultation process.
22 Jan 2013	Council (special) meet, will receive report on capital criteria. Public consultation ends (4 weeks from commencement).
31 Jan 2013	Audit Committee meet, will receive Treasury Management Strategy report.
12 Feb 2013	Executive meet, will receive revenue and capital budgets and treasury management strategy reports for recommendation to Council.
21 Feb 2013	Council approve revenue and capital budgets and treasury management strategy.

During discussion, the need for all residents of the Borough to see the consultation document was highlighted and that they should be encouraged to provide a response. It was suggested that Copeland should not rely on the Website and/or drop in sessions.

There was uncertainty amongst Members as to whether they were permitted to complete and return a questionnaire themselves and the Chief Executive offered to circulate an email clarifying the position for Members.

It was noted that the OSC would receive updated budget papers as part of public consultation process on 17 January 2013 and it was requested that this be a Joint meeting of both the Internal and External Committees.

Members asked if the Council's partners had been included in the consultation process and were advised that meetings with Partners had taken place and their responses were awaited.

The Chief Executive and the Financial Management and Treasury Accountant were thanked for attending the meeting and providing the update.

**RESOLVED** – that

- a) the update be received,
- b) an email clarifying the position for Members responding to the consultation be issued and
- c) that the OSC to receive updated budget papers as part of public consultation process on 17 January 2013 be a Joint meeting of both the Internal and External Committees.

The meeting closed at 11:20 am

Chairman .....

Date .....