

## **OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE**

### **MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD ON 15 MARCH 2010 AT 2:00PM**

Present: Councillors B. Dixon (Chairman, Mrs Y Clarkson; Mrs M Docherty; Mrs E Eastwood; G Garrity; J Kane; Mrs W Metherell and P Whalley.

Officers: A Johnson, Interim Scrutiny Consultant; J Hall, Scrutiny Support Officer; K Parker, Acting Director Quality of Life; M Jepson, Head of Legal and Democratic Services and C Willoughby, Member Services Technical Support Officer.

Apologies for absence: Councillor K Hitchen.

Also present: Councillor Miss E Woodburn.

**MGT 81/09**

#### **Minutes**

**RESOLVED** – That the minutes of the meeting held on 15 February 2010 be signed as a correct record.

**MGT 82/09**

#### **Chairman's Opening Remarks**

The Chairman began the meeting by thanking the Committee for the progress made over the last twelve months in Overview and Scrutiny.

Members were then asked to be aware of an extra Executive meeting being held on 23 March 2010 and that it was not intended to hold an extra meeting of this committee following that one. Therefore Members should contact the Scrutiny Support Officer if they wish to challenge any of the Executive decisions made.

The Chairman expressed his concern regarding the late issue of the Statement of Executive Decisions and that he had only received his copy immediately prior to this meeting.

Members were informed that the Statement of Executive Decisions had been issued on time by email to Committee Members on 12 March 2010 and sent by first class post to non-emailable Members on the same day.

**MGT 83/09**

#### **Review of Overview and Scrutiny arrangements – Consultation Paper to the Executive meeting on 9 March 2010**

Members were advised that following the recent Overview and Scrutiny workshops, the Chairman, Deputy Chairman and Interim Scrutiny Consultant attended the Executive meeting on 9 March 2010 to present

the consultation paper on the review of Overview and Scrutiny arrangements.

Option 2 (One Committee with identified leads over task and finish groups) was put forward as the preferred option. The consultation paper also included protocols and guidance.

After debate and careful consideration, the Executive favoured Option 3 (Two Committees – One Overview Committee and one Scrutiny Committee) and made a number of recommendations that are shown in Executive Decision number 7.

It has been suggested that the next step should be a Scrutiny Forum to be held on 26 March 2010 to which ALL Members and Corporate Team be invited to discuss Options 2 and 3 only. This Forum would be facilitated by the IdeA.

Resulting from the Forum a recommendation would be made to the Choosing to Change Board on 30 March 2010 and to Full Council on 13 April 2010.

The Chairman thanked the Interim Scrutiny Consultant for her hard work and the Executive for their input. All Members of the Council should be encouraged to attend the Scrutiny Forum and it was requested that Members be contacted by phone to invite them.

During the discussion that followed, Members expressed a view that they could work with Option 3 and that whichever Option was selected it could be 'tweaked'.

It was therefore suggested that Option 3 be the recommended Option of the Overview and Scrutiny Management Committee.

Members also stated that the comments made by the Executive were useful and helped to take Overview and Scrutiny forward.

**RESOLVED** - that a Scrutiny Forum be arranged on 26 March 2010 and that only Options 2 and 3 be considered further with Option 3 being recommended by the Overview and Scrutiny Management Committee.

## **MGT 84/09**

### **Work Plans**

Committee Chairs were invited at this point to provide an update on their own Committees.

Councillor Mrs Y Clarkson stated that Closer To Home was ongoing and in particular, 'Step Down' beds would need to be watched. All the remaining items on the Children, Young People and Healthy Communities workplan were to be picked up at the next meeting of the Committee on 1 April 2010.

Councillor Kane provided an update for the Economic Development and Enterprise Committee and stated that all outstanding workplan items were to be picked up at the next meeting of the Committee on 15 April 2010.

It was also noted that the Business Engagement Task and Finish Group had started and the Group were disappointed that although invited, Enterprise Whitehaven did not attend

Councillor Metherell updated the Committee on Safer and Stronger Communities and began by stating that the Liveability Task and Finish Group had met earlier in the day. It was noted that the outstanding Multi Storey Car Park issues were now completed and that all the remaining items on the Safer and Stronger Communities workplan were to be picked up at the next meeting of the Committee on 29 April 2010 .

**RESOLVED** - that the Committee's Work Plan be amended as necessary and the updates from the Committee Chairs be received.

#### **MGT 85/09**

#### **Future Work Programming**

Members considered the process for the 2010/2011 Work Programme and the suggested topics included:

Budget	Albion Square
Health Issues	Parking
CDRP	Nuclear Issues
Place Survey	Transport Interchange

Members were requested to identify any additional items for inclusion and to notify the Scrutiny Support Officer.

It was suggested that once an item on the work programme was completed, that it be removed.

**RESOLVED** - that the Work Programme for 2010/2011 be developed with the above subject and any additional items be notified to the Scrutiny Support Officer.

#### **MGT 86/09**

#### **Executive Decisions**

Consideration was given to the reports considered in public by the Executive at its meeting on 9 March 2010.

**RESOLVED** - that the decisions made by the Executive at its meeting on 9 March 2010 be noted.

At this point, Councillor Hitchen entered the meeting.

**MGT 87/09**

**Member's Communication**

This item had been previously discussed by the Committee at its meeting on 15 February 2010 (minute 78/09 refers) and had been added to this agenda as clarification was sought.

The Head of Legal and Democratic Services advised Members that IT was a function for which the Executive was responsible and therefore Overview and Scrutiny Management Committee was unable to establish an IT sub-group as previously decided.

During the discussion that followed, it was noted that with the introduction of Blackberrys to some Members the subject of IT may be one for the Executive to look at in the next municipal year.

**RESOLVED** - that

- a) The decision made in Minute 78/09 to reform the Members IT Sub Group be reversed, and
- b) A recommendation be made to Executive that a Task and Finish Group/Members Sub Group be set up in the next municipal year to look at IT

**MGT 88/09**

**Scrutiny Support Officer**

Jessica Hall was welcomed as the new Scrutiny Support Officer by the Chairman and Committee Members.

The meeting closed at 3:50 pm

Chairman.....

Date.....