

OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE

MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD ON 23 NOVEMBER 2009 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: K Parker, Acting Corporate Director Quality of Life; A Johnson, Interim Scrutiny Consultant and C Willoughby, Member Services Technical Support Officer.

Apologies for absence: Councillor K Hitchen.

MGT 43/09 Minutes

RESOLVED – That the minutes of the meeting held on 26 October 2009 be signed as a correct record.

MGT 44/09 Chairman's Opening Remarks

The Chair offered his deepest sympathy and support for the people of Allerdale in the light of the devastating floods they suffered at the end of the previous week, sentiments which were wholeheartedly endorsed by all members of the Committee.

The Interim Overview and Scrutiny Consultant was introduced and welcomed by the Committee.

MGT 46/09 Greater Public Involvement in Overview and Scrutiny

Members considered the Committee's recommendations on Greater Public Involvement in Overview and Scrutiny being put forward to Full Council.

During the discussions that followed, Members were advised that in the light of the next item on the agenda it may be better to defer the report for further consideration by Committee at a later date, as it was potentially part of a wider scrutiny review.

RESOLVED – That the Committee's recommendations on Greater Public Involvement in Overview and Scrutiny be deferred for further consideration by the Management Committee.

MGT 47/09 Future Scrutiny Training Needs for Our Authority

Members discussed the future Scrutiny training and development needs for Copeland Borough Council, various training methods and including specific modules provided by the Improvement and Development Agency (IDeA).

The Committee was keen to ensure that the Overview and Scrutiny function was on the right track and moving forward, and recognised that both Member and Officer involvement was required.

It was suggested that it might be timely for an Overview and Scrutiny Management Committee workshop to be held to review the Overview and Scrutiny function and then to focus on proposals for the way forward, which would include considering the future training and development needs of both members and officers in the Authority. It was suggested that this could be the first stage of a wider programme of Member and Officer Development for Overview and Scrutiny.

The outcomes would be reported to the Management Committee in the first instance on 21 December 2009 and the process would evolve from there.

RESOLVED – That the first ‘Member Development Workshop on Scrutiny’ for Overview and Scrutiny Management Committee be held on 14 December 2009 10.00am - 4.00pm at a venue to be arranged, to review the Overview and Scrutiny function within the Authority and to focus on proposals for the way forward, reporting back to Management Committee on 21st December 2009.

MGT 48/09 Forward Plan

The Committee considered the Forward Plan of Key Decisions for November 2009 to January 2010.

During discussion of this item it was requested that the Acting Chief Executive be invited to present to this Committee on 21 December 2009 on Resources for Nuclear & Sustainability and Local Strategic Partnership.

It was also requested that the Acting Director Quality of Life be invited to give a presentation to this Committee on 21 December 2009 on Comprehensive Area Assessment.

Members were advised that Review of Gambling Policy report would be an item on the next Full Council agenda.

RESOLVED That

- a) the Forward Plan of Key Decisions November 2009 to January 2010 be noted,
- b) the Acting Chief Executive be invited to present to this Committee on 21 December 2009 on Resources for Nuclear & Sustainability and Local Strategic Partnership.
- c) the Acting Director Quality of Life be invited to give a presentation to this Committee on 21 December 2009 on Comprehensive Area Assessment.

MGT 49/09 Work Plan

Consideration was given to the Work Plan of the Council’s Overview and Scrutiny Committees.

During discussion of this item, Members were advised that the Interim Scrutiny Consultant and OSC Chairs and Deputy Chairs had begun a series of meetings to review and update the Work Plan for their Committees. The Place Survey Task & Finish Group would also be added as a Work Plan item for this Committee.

RESOLVED - that the Work Plan be noted and following review between the Interim Scrutiny Consultant and OSC Chairs would be updated.

MGT 50/09 Executive Decisions

Consideration was given to the reports considered in public by the Executive at its meeting on 17 November 2009.

RESOLVED - that the decisions made by the Executive at its meeting on 17 November 2009 be noted.

MGT 51/09 Exclusion of Press and Public

RESOLVED - that pursuant to Section 100(A)(4) of the Local Government Act, 1972, as amended, the press and public be excluded from the meeting for the following item of business on the grounds of likely disclosure of exempt information as defined in paragraph 3 of Part 1 of Schedule 12A to the Act.

Consideration was given to the exempt reports considered by the Executive at its meeting on 17 November 2009.

RESOLVED – that the decisions made by the Executive in private at its meeting on 17 November be noted.

The meeting closed at 3:45 pm

Chairman.....

Date.....