

Notes of the Scrutiny and Overview Committee
Business Improvement Working Group
28th July 2015

Present: Councillors: John Chidlow, Godfrey Newman, Brian O'Connell, Michael Willett

Apologies: Councillors: Jonathan Dancer, Tony Hogben, David Jenkins, Connor Relleen

Also present: Councillors: Leonard Crosbie (Chairman of Scrutiny & Overview Committee), Paul Clarke

Officer: Katharine Eberhart, Director of Corporate Resources

1. ELECTION OF CHAIRMAN

Councillor Brian O'Connell was elected as Chairman of the Working Group for the ensuing year. It was also agreed by the Working Group that John Chidlow would be Vice-Chairman for the ensuing year.

2. TIME OF MEETINGS

The meetings of the Business Improvement Working Group would be held at 6.00pm for the ensuing year.

3. TO APPROVE AS CORRECT THE RECORD OF THE MEETING HELD ON 4TH MARCH 2015

The notes of the meeting held on 4th March 2015 were approved as a correct record. The Chairman went through the minutes in some detail for the benefit of new members of the Working Group.

4. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

There were no declarations of interest.

5. ANNOUNCEMENTS FROM THE CHAIRMAN OR CHIEF EXECUTIVE

There were no announcements.

6. TO APPROVE THE WORKING GROUP'S TERMS OF REFERENCE

The Terms of Reference were approved by the Working Group. It was noted that these terms would be scoped for any large scale projects that were undertaken.

4. REVIEW OF WORK PROGRAMME FOR 2015/16

Development Management Performance

The Chairman advised that the performance of the Development Management team had improved significantly as a result of the new structure and changes introduced by the Director of Planning, Economic Development & Property. It was therefore confirmed that the Working Group did not need to continue to monitor its performance.

Property and asset management

The restructure of this department had been approved in March and was now being implemented. The Property and Facilities Manager would provide an update at the next Working Group meeting in October.

Business Transformation Programme

The Chairman advised that the Working Group would not be required to review the office move to Parkside. The Business Transformation Advisory Group, of which the Chairman was a member, would be assessing the outcomes of the move and the Chairman would feed back the conclusions of the Advisory Group to the Working Group.

Financial Impact of the Overturn of Decisions on Appeal

Now that the Horsham District Planning Framework (HDPF) was nearly finalised, the issue of the overturn of appeals owing to the lack of a five year land supply for housing would no longer be relevant. Therefore the issue would not require further discussion by the Working Group.

However it was agreed that statistics regarding appeals should continue to be monitored, and those gathered prior to the adoption of the HDPF should be compared to future statistics after its adoption later this year.

The Chairman of Scrutiny & Overview Committee advised that the Finance & Performance Working Group had questioned why one planning appeal had been taken to the High Court, resulting in substantial costs. The Chief Executive would provide a briefing to Members explaining the appeal process and when a case would be referred to the High Court.

It was confirmed that the Scrutiny & Overview Committee would be agreeing its Working Programme at its next meeting on 14th September 2015.

The meeting finished at 6.15pm having commenced at 5.30pm

CHAIRMAN