

**SCRUTINY & OVERVIEW COMMITTEE**  
**14<sup>TH</sup> SEPTEMBER 2015**

Present: Councillors: Leonard Crosbie (Chairman), David Coldwell (Vice-Chairman) Paul Clarke, Roger Clarke, Jonathan Dancer, Tony Hogben, Nigel Jupp, Tim Lloyd, Brian O'Connell, Ben Staines, Michael Willett

Apologies: Councillors: Alan Britten, John Chidlow, Matthew French, David Skipp

Officers: Katharine Eberhart, Director of Corporate Resources

Also present: Councillor Christian Mitchell

SO/18 **MINUTES**

The minutes of the meeting of the Committee held on 6<sup>th</sup> July 2015 were approved as a correct record and signed by the Chairman.

SO/19 **DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

There were no declarations of interest.

SO/20 **ANNOUNCEMENTS FROM THE CHAIRMAN OF THE COMMITTEE OR THE CHIEF EXECUTIVE**

There were no announcements.

SO/21 **REPLIES FROM CABINET/COUNCIL REGARDING SCRUTINY AND OVERVIEW RECOMMENDATIONS**

There were no replies from Cabinet or Council.

SO/22 **BUSINESS IMPROVEMENT WORKING GROUP – TO RECEIVE AN UPDATE FROM THE CHAIRMAN AND NOTES OF THE MEETING HELD 28<sup>TH</sup> JULY 2015**

The Chairman of the Business Improvement Working Group presented the notes of the meeting held 28<sup>th</sup> July 2015.

The Working Group was awaiting a note on property and asset management, which would be received at its next meeting.

The Group had agreed it would not review the outcome of the recent office move as this would be assessed by the Business Transformation Advisory Group. However the Committee agreed that Scrutiny should have a role in reviewing this and it was suggested that the Chairman request a presentation to the Committee or full Council on the office move, similar to the presentation received by the Advisory Group.

SO/22 Business Improvement Working Group – To receive an update from the Chairman and notes of the meeting held 28<sup>th</sup> July 2015 (cont.)

The Working Group continued to await the briefing note requested by the Chairman of the Committee, from the Chief Executive, explaining and providing clarity on the high court appeal process. Once the Working Group had received the note from the Chief Executive it would review this alongside a mapping exercise of the whole planning process, from the initial application through to a high court appeal.

RESOLVED

That the notes of the Business Improvement Working Group meeting held on 28<sup>th</sup> July 2015, be received.

REASON

All notes of Working Group meetings are to be received by the Committee

SO/23 CRIME AND DISORDER WORKING GROUP – TO RECEIVE AN UPDATE FROM THE CHAIRMAN

The Chairman of the Crime and Disorder Working Group updated the Committee on the Working Group.

A presentation by the Sussex Police and Crime Commissioner had taken place since the last meeting of the Group. At the next meeting the Working Group would be hearing from the police regarding the Community Safety Partnership action plan, updating Members on the matters in the District.

One Member of the Committee had some concerns following the presentation by the Police and Crime Commissioner; these would be emailed to the Chairman of the Working Group and would be addressed at the Group's next meeting.

RESOLVED

That an update from the Crime and Disorder Working Group be received.

REASON

All updates from Working Groups are to be received by the Committee.

SO/24 **FINANCE AND PERFORMANCE WORKING GROUP – TO RECEIVE AN UPDATE FROM THE CHAIRMAN AND NOTES OF THE MEETING HELD ON 26<sup>TH</sup> AUGUST 2015**

The Chairman of the Scrutiny and Overview Committee presented the notes of the Finance and Performance Working Group meeting held on 26<sup>th</sup> August 2015, in the absence of the Working Group Chairman.

The Committee noted the update from the Group.

The Working Group had requested the attendance of the Cabinet Member for Waste and Recycling at its next meeting to update the Group on a number of issues including Council's proposals to replace the refuse collection fleet. The Committee supported the Group's request to hear from the Cabinet Member on these matters and proposals.

The Scrutiny and Overview Committee agreed that the Finance and Performance Working Group would no longer receive a quarterly overview of the Council's use of the Regulation of Investigatory Powers Act (RIPA) 2000 and instead this would be received by the Business Improvement Working Group, as it was the Business Improvement Working Group that currently received the annual report on the use of RIPA.

RESOLVED

That the notes of the Finance and Performance Working Group meeting held on 26<sup>th</sup> August 2015, be received.

REASON

All notes of Working Group meetings are to be received by the Committee

SO/25 **SOCIAL INCLUSION WORKING GROUP – TO RECEIVE AN UPDATE FROM THE CHAIRMAN**

The Committee noted that there had been no further meetings of the Social Inclusion Working Group.

RESOLVED

That an update from the Social Inclusion Working Group be received.

REASON

All updates from Working Groups are to be received by the Committee

SO/26 **HEALTH PROVISION WORKING GROUP – TO RECEIVE AN UPDATE FROM THE CHAIRMAN AND NOTES OF THE MEETING HELD ON 29<sup>TH</sup> JULY 2015**

The Chairman of the Scrutiny and Overview Committee presented the notes of the Health Provision Working Group meeting held 29<sup>th</sup> July 2015 and the proposed Terms of Reference, in the absence of the Chairman.

The Committee approved the Terms of Reference but wanted to ensure that the Group's review included the District as a whole and did not focus only on Horsham and Horsham Hospital. The Members highlighted the division in the District in terms of health care and clinical commissioning groups, and Members were keen to ensure that the entire District formed part of the review.

The Health Seminar which the Councillors were due to receive on 30<sup>th</sup> September 2015 would be provided by the Crawley and Mid Sussex CCG, however Members were keen to see a similar seminar provided by the coastal CCG which serviced the south of the District.

Members expressed concerns in relation to the car park at Horsham Hospital, if there was to be an expansion of services at the Hospital, then the car park should also be taken into consideration.

The Committee noted the information that had been requested by the Group and this would be discussed at its next meeting.

RESOLVED

- (i) That the notes of the Health Provision Working Group meeting held on 29<sup>th</sup> July 2015, be received
- (ii) That the Terms of Reference be approved by the Committee

REASON

All notes of Working Group meetings and their Terms of Reference are to be received and approved by the Committee.

SO/27 **TO RECEIVE ANY SUGGESTIONS FOR THE SCRUTINY AND OVERVIEW WORK PROGRAMME**

A number of suggested work programme items were presented to the Committee for consideration. After some discussion the following was agreed:

SO/27 To receive any suggestions for the Scrutiny and Overview Work Programme (cont.)

Item 1 – The Council’s Heritage Strategy: The Committee agreed that the Cabinet Member for Leisure and Culture should establish an advisory group to draw up a heritage strategy and it was not appropriate for a Scrutiny working group to carry this out this review.

Item 2 – Car parking provision in new developments: This was no longer appropriate for the Scrutiny and Overview work programme.

Item 3 – The funding shortage for infrastructure west of Horsham: This was no longer appropriate for the Scrutiny and Overview work programme.

Item 4 – The Council’s Communication Policy: This was no longer appropriate for the Scrutiny and Overview work programme.

Item 5 – Follow up on the recent office move: This item was currently being addressed by the Business Transformation Advisory Group.

Item 6 – Follow up on the impact of planning appeals: This was currently being addressed through the Finance and Performance Working Group and the Chairman of the Scrutiny Committee.

Item 7 – Monitor the performance of Development Management: This item had been addressed and finalised by the Business Improvement Working Group.

Item 8 – Examine the S106 process: This would be addressed alongside item 10 and item 1 raised by the member of the public, under a review of S106 to look at the process, accountability and finances. The review would be undertaken by the Business Improvement Working Group with an extended membership for the purposes of this task, and would include a number of new Councillors.

Item 9 – Assessment and accountability of West Sussex County Council traffic assessments and forecasts, especially relating to new developments: The Committee agreed that a new working group be established to review this. Guidance would be sought from West Sussex County Council and the review would not be restricted to major developments only.

Item 10 – Total review of S106 procedures: This would be addressed alongside item 8 and item 1 raised by the member of the public, under a review of S106 to look at the process, accountability and finances. The review would be undertaken by the Business Improvement Working Group with an extended membership for the purposes of this task, and would include a number of new Councillors.

Item 11 – Review of affordable housing: This item would be suspended until further information regarding the new Affordable Homes Bill was passed and available, as this would be likely to make some changes to the present situation.

SO/27 To receive any suggestions for the Scrutiny and Overview Work Programme (cont.)

Item 12 – Boundary Commission Review: This item would not be ready for review until 2016.

Item 1 Raised by a member of the public – Review of viability Information for West of Southwater strategic site: This would be addressed alongside item 8 and 10, under a review of S106 to look at the process, accountability and finances. The review would be undertaken by the Business Improvement Working Group with an extended membership for the purposes of this task, and would include a number of new Councillors.

RESOLVED

That any suggestions for the Scrutiny and Overview Committee work programme be received.

SO/28 **TO AGREE THE FUTURE OF THE OUTSTANDING WORKING GROUPS**

The Scrutiny and Overview Committee noted two outstanding working groups which were scheduled to meet this year, following recommendations made to the previous Committee prior to the elections.

The Committee agreed that the Trade Waste Working Group would receive one final report to follow up on the recommendations that had been made in its final report.

The Rail Network Performance Working Group would be reformed with three members, to meet once a year in order to maintain an overview of the performance of Network Rail and Southern Rail.

SO/29 **ITEMS NOT ON THE AGENDA BUT CONSIDERED URGENT**

None.

The meeting finished at 8.12 pm having commenced at 6.00 pm.

CHAIRMAN