

OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY BOARD

A meeting of the Overview and Scrutiny Board was held on 4 May 2010.

PRESENT: Councillor Brunton (Chair), Councillors Ismail, Kerr, Khan, Mawston, Purvis, Sanderson and Williams.

OFFICERS: J Bennington, G Brown, P Clark, J Ord, N Sayer and P Stephens.

**** APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE** were submitted on behalf of Councillors Cole, C Hobson and J Hobson.

**** DECLARATIONS OF INTERESTS**

No declarations of interest were made at this point of the meeting.

**** MINUTES**

The minutes of the meeting of the Overview and Scrutiny Board held on 6 April 2010 were submitted and approved as a correct record.

EXECUTIVE FORWARD WORK PROGRAMME

As part of the Board's remit in terms of holding the Executive to account a report of the Executive Office Manager was submitted which identified the forthcoming issues to be considered by the Executive as outlined in Appendix A of the report submitted.

NOTED

STRATEGIC PLAN 2010 TO 2011 – THEMATIC SECTIONS – PERFORMANCE INDICATORS – PRELIMINARY DRAFT

Further to recent discussions with Scrutiny Panels a report of the Assistant Chief Executive was presented which outlined a preliminary draft of the thematic sections and performance indicator appendix of the 2010/2011 Strategic Plan for consultation and direction.

It was confirmed that a number of amendments had been made or were planned including: -

- a) detailed performance indicator information had been included in the relevant appendix, with the thematic section outlining the Council's key targets in a narrative format;
- b) performance targets that were not determined locally would be identified in the performance indicator appendix in the final version of the plan;
- c) performance comparison information included in the final version of the plan would be broadened to include family group comparisons for relevant indicators for example, crime, health, benefits and educational attainment;
- d) narrative around the strategic priorities would be reviewed and updated as appropriate to ensure clarity.

It was noted that the 2009/2010 out-turns and targets for those performance indicators that were measured by financial year would be added into the draft following the annual corporate data return, due for completion in early May 2010.

It was intended that a final draft of the Strategic Plan would be presented to the Council's CMT in May 2010 before endorsement and approval sought through Executive and Council in May/June 2010. The Plan would be published on the Council's website by 30 June 2010 and the final version of the document would be professionally printed and distributed in July 2010.

NOTED

UNIVERSITY RESIDENTS PARKING SCHEME – ECONOMIC REGENERATION AND TRANSPORT SCRUTINY PANEL

The Vice - Chair of the Economic Regeneration and Transport Scrutiny Panel outlined the Panel's findings, conclusions and recommendations following its investigation of the University Residents Parking Scheme.

The Board considered the following recommendations of the Panel based on the submitted evidence: -

- i) That efforts continue to secure the necessary funding from the capital programme for the proposed extension to the University Residents Parking Scheme to go ahead.
- ii) That Gresham and Linthorpe Village remain the two priority areas for the introduction of a residents parking scheme following the proposed extension to the University Residents Parking Scheme, as detailed in the Panel's 2006 report on the topic. An assessment should be undertaken as to how this can be achieved.
- iii) That an update in respect of the impact on Lytton Street, Wellesley Road and Douglas Street be provided to the Panel if the funding for the proposed extension to the University Residents Parking Scheme is secured.

ORDERED that the findings and recommendations of the Economic Regeneration and Transport Scrutiny Panel be endorsed and referred to the Executive.

COMMUNITY JUSTICE COURTS – COMMUNITY SAFETY AND LEISURE SCRUTINY PANEL

The Chair of the Community Safety and Leisure Scrutiny Panel outlined the Panel's assessment and recommendations following its scrutiny investigation into Community Justice Courts.

The Panel had appreciated that whilst the Council had no direct control over many of the aspects associated with the operation of Community Justice Courts and the application of Community Payback, the Courts worked with and through a number of agencies and the Council had influence in ensuring that the CJC initiative was effective and that the community were aware of its impact.

The Board considered the following recommendations of the Panel based on the submitted evidence: -

- i) That the Courts Service looks for suitable locations within the community areas where a Community Justice Court could be held. This could include a number of wards and forge a closer link between the community and the Court.
- ii) That the Council contributes to improving community awareness of the Courts function, its effectiveness and the link with the community as Justice seen-justice done.
- iii) That the Council work through the SMP and Courts to promote the inclusion on Restorative Justice within the Community Justice Court function.
- iv) That the Council undertakes discussions with the Courts to promote the option for running a Community Justice Court with a single Judge as opposed to a selection of magistrates.
- v) That the Council works closely with the Probation Service to improve community awareness of the Community Payback function and encourage the Community and local organisations to propose new projects for CP.
- vi) That the Council works with the SMP to assess the effectiveness of agencies working together and address the incompatibility of the IT links between agencies with the aim of improving the efficiency.

- vii) To rebuild the links between the various agencies involved with the Community Justice Initiative and the Community Councils and Councillors to develop improved community awareness.
- viii) For the Police to involve the ward Councillor when establishing a Community Impact Statement.
- ix) In winter the Council to engage with the Probation Service and for offenders to be directed towards clearing snow etc as a community payback task and ensure the public are made aware of this contribution.
- x) To present to the Courts service that where practicable, look towards having agencies located in one venue and also establish a nominated representative from each agency as the recognised link to a CJC.

ORDERED that the findings and recommendations of the Community Safety and Leisure Scrutiny Panel be endorsed and referred to the Executive.

CO OPTED MEMBERS – ADDED MEMBERS

Further to the meeting of the Board held on 28 July 2010 a report of the Director of Legal and Democratic Services was presented which detailed the outcome of consultation with co-opted members of scrutiny committees on new arrangements relating to added members.

The new arrangements as previously agreed by the Board were reported as follows: -

- i) the Council would no longer appoint co-opted members to scrutiny committees, with the exception of the statutory Church and Parent Governor representatives;
- ii) the Council would introduce a system of 'added members' whereby non-elected members may be appointed to a scrutiny committee as a non-voting member of the committee for the duration of a particular scrutiny investigation;
- iii) up to two added members may serve at any one time in any scrutiny committee;
- iv) it is up to each scrutiny committee to decide whether an added member should be appointed. If so, then the appointment should be notified to and minuted by Overview and Scrutiny Board.

The Board was advised of the following: -

- a) that the Learning and Skills Council had been abolished on 31 March 2009;
- b) Age Concern and the Trade Unions were both in agreement with the proposed changes as outlined;
- c) No response had yet been received from Teesside University.

ORDERED that the recommendations as outlined and previously agreed by the Board at its meeting held on 28 July 2009 be reaffirmed and submitted to the Council with a view to implementation in the 2010/2011 Municipal Year.

SCRUTINY REVIEW REQUESTS

It was confirmed that no requests for scrutiny reviews had been received from the Executive, Executive Members, Non Executive Members and members of the public since the last meeting of the Board.

NOTED

SCRUTINY PANELS – PROGRESS REPORTS

A report of the Chair of each Scrutiny Panel was submitted which outlined progress on current activities.

NOTED

CALL IN REQUESTS

It was confirmed that no requests had been received to call-in a decision.

NOTED

VOTE OF THANKS

The Chair thanked Members for their attendance and participation in subsequent deliberations during the last Municipal Year.

NOTED