

OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY BOARD

A meeting of the Overview and Scrutiny Board was held on 19 August 2014.

PRESENT: Councillors N J Walker, (Chair), Councillors Dryden, C Hobson, Mawston, McIntyre, P Purvis, Sanderson, M Thompson, J A Walker and Williams

OFFICERS: G Brown, A Crawford and S Harker

APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE were submitted on behalf of Councillors Cole and P Sharrocks.

DECLARATIONS OF INTERESTS

There were no declarations of interest made at this point of the meeting.

14/30 MINUTES - OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY BOARD 22 JULY 2014

The minutes of the meeting of the Overview and Scrutiny Board held on 22 July 2014 were submitted and approved as a correct record.

14/31 ATTENDANCE OF EXECUTIVE MEMBERS - THE MAYOR

The Scrutiny Support Officer submitted a report which included the schedule previously agreed detailing proposed attendance by individual Members of the Executive to meetings of the Board. The process was part of the scrutiny arrangements of holding the Executive and Executive Members to account and for them to provide updates on their respective work, priorities and emerging issues and also to provide the opportunity for the Board to identify any issues of concern.

Unfortunately, due to an administrative error, Members were informed that the Mayor was unable to attend the meeting.

ORDERED that the Scrutiny Support Officer would arrange for the Mayor to attend a future meeting.

14/32 EXECUTIVE DECISION MONITORING SCHEDULE

A report of the Executive Office Manager was presented which provided a further six months update on the monitoring of Executive Decisions which included the implementation of agreed recommendations arising from Scrutiny reports as outlined in Appendix A of the report submitted.

Members suggested that the following items could be added to future reports to further improve them:

- Target Date.
- An indication of whether or not actions had been completed by the Target Date.
- Scrutiny and Executive recommendations to be listed separately (rather than together in chronological order).

In response to a query, the Scrutiny Support Officer agreed to seek clarification on the item on the Sale of the Former Prissick Depot in relation to the term "abnormal costs".

NOTED**14/33 EXECUTIVE FEEDBACK - 20 MPH SPEED LIMITS - MENTAL HEALTH SERVICES CAPACITY**

As part of the scrutiny process the Board considered a report of the Executive Office Manager which confirmed that the Executive had considered the Final Report of the Economic Regeneration and Transport Scrutiny Panel in respect of 20MPH Speed Limits and the Health Scrutiny Panel's Final Report on Mental Health Services Capacity.

The Executive had considered and supported the Service Responses as outlined in Appendices A and B of the report submitted. In considering the items, the Executive supported both the Service Responses respectively.

NOTED

14/34

SCHOOL IMPROVEMENT AND SUPPORT

The Chair of the Children and Learning Scrutiny Panel presented the Panel's findings, conclusions and recommendations of the scrutiny investigation into the Local Authority's Plans for School Improvement and Support, following the OFSTED inspection in January 2014.

The Board considered the following recommendations:

- a) That measures be implemented to encourage elected members to develop active and supportive links with the schools in their ward.
- b) That the Children and Learning Scrutiny Panel receive quarterly updates on the progress made against the Local Authority's school improvement post inspection action plan.
- c) That, at the end of each academic year, performance data pertaining to all schools, is reported to the Children and Learning Scrutiny Panel.
- d) That a mechanism is implemented whereby, when a school is facing special measures and/or underperformance, the Children and Learning Scrutiny Panel is notified, enabling it to request a meeting with the head teacher and chair of governors to gain a clearer appreciation of the support and challenge the school requires.
- e) That, Middlesbrough's schools and teachers use the Sutton Trust & Education Endowment Fund Teaching and Learning Toolkit as guidance to enable them to effectively use their resources to improve attainment. The Toolkit is an accessible summary of educational research.
- f) That teacher evaluation is undertaken regularly which includes student performance assessments and outcome measures. Evaluation results should include substantive feedback to teachers and link results to a wide range of professional development opportunities to strengthen practice. This will ensure a continuous pathway for professional growth and development is maintained.
- g) That an evaluation system for head teachers be developed that includes multiple measures reflecting the complexity of their leadership, management and pupil support roles and is linked directly to opportunities to improve their practice.
- h) That newly appointed head teachers receive formal mentoring from more experienced and highly effective school leaders.
- i) That the causes of high head teacher turnover are analysed and support and professional development programmes are developed that can mitigate the problem.
- j) That the process for recruiting staff is reviewed with a view to increasing the number of applications received.
- k) That a piece of research is commissioned to look at best practice from schools, outside of Middlesbrough that have achieved excellent outcomes despite similar levels of disadvantage.
- l) That, the scrutiny panel's recommendations are detailed in the School Effectiveness Strategy, in addition to information enabling schools to understand the scrutiny process and how the process can bring support and challenge to schools, regardless of their governance model.

It was suggested that recommendation (a) be amended to read "with the schools attended by children in their Ward". It was also suggested that an additional recommendation be added that schools be advised to involve Councillors with regard to links with the Community.

ORDERED that the findings and recommendations of the Children and Learning Scrutiny Panel be endorsed and referred to the Executive, subject to the amendments suggested at the meeting.

14/35 **SCRUTINY PANELS - PROGRESS REPORTS**

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

The next topic to be considered by the Children and Learning Scrutiny Panel would be Early Help - Improving Outcomes for Children, Young People and Families.

The Community Safety and Leisure Scrutiny Panel was reviewing Alternative Delivery Models (ADM) - Sports and Leisure Services and had provided comments on the revised option evaluation criteria prior to it being presented to the Change Programme Transformation Board.

The Economic Regeneration and Transport Scrutiny Panel was currently scrutinising the possible introduction of free wi-fi in the town.

The Environment Scrutiny Panel had commenced a new topic of Maintenance of Open Spaces. At the last meeting the Panel had received an overview of the work undertaken to date to determine the most advantageous delivery model for streetscene services in Middlesbrough.

The Health Scrutiny Panel had received information from the South Tees Hospitals NHS Foundation Trust on their financial position and the recent Monitor investigations and also the pressures faced in recruiting doctors and consultants.

The next topic to be considered by the Social Care and Adult Services Scrutiny Panel was Assistive Technology - How New Technology Can Transform Care.

NOTED

14/36 **CALL-IN**

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

NOTED

14/37 **ANY OTHER URGENT ITEMS WHICH IN THE OPINION OF THE CHAIR, MAY BE CONSIDERED.**

Future Meetings of the Overview and Scrutiny Board

The Chair informed Members that the next two meetings of the Board, due to take place on 16 September and 14 October 2014, would be re-scheduled and Members would be advised of the new dates.

Task and Finish Groups

Further to previous discussions regarding topics for consideration by the Ad Hoc Scrutiny Panel, the Chair suggested that Task and Finish Groups were established to look at Volunteering in the Council and Customer Contact. The Groups would report their findings to the Overview and Scrutiny Board.

NOTED