

Overview and Scrutiny Committee

6 February 2012

Present: Councillor C B Pickard (Chair)
Councillors J M Allan, J Bell, L Birkenfield,
G Brett, B Burdis, R Glindon, J Harrison, F Lott,
M McIntyre, D McLellan, T Mulvenna, M Rankin
and N Redfearn.

Church Representative - Rev M Vine

OV54/02/12 Apologies

There were no apologies.

OV55/02/12 Substitute Members

There were no substitute members.

OV56/02/12 Declarations of Interest

There were no declarations of interest reported.

OV57/02/12 Minutes

Resolved that the minutes of the meeting held on 9 January 2012 be confirmed.

OV58/02/12 Change Efficiency and Improvement Programme – Progress update (Previous Minute OV51/01/12)

The Committee received progress updates to the Change Efficiency and Improvement programme.

The key progress from January was:

Theme A:

- Children and Education Services and Adult Social Care: Engagement activity had taken place to feed into detailed equality impact assessments (EIA's) for key projects. Detailed plans were being drawn up and would include any mitigating/remedial actions indicated in the EIA's
- Governance arrangements were being developed to link in with plans for Public Health Transition joint commissioning with the NHS, streamlining the number of boards/groups managing the work effectively for mutual dependent projects.

Theme B dealing with a range of services through partnerships with public, private or voluntary/community sector providers:

- Pre-qualification questionnaires (PQQ'S) were being evaluated and four bidders per package (Business and Technical) would go through to the next stage to submit their outline solutions for the Council.
- Seven briefings had been issued to staff keeping them up to date with the packages.
- Staff affected by the proposals of the Business, Technical and Community Based Trust packages had opportunities to ask questions at a number of arranged drop in sessions.
- Adverts and an open evening had attracted 38 applications to be trustees of the Community Based Trusts and the planning and procurement phase had started.

Theme C introducing new ways to deliver environmental services, reducing costs on energy and transport in addition to reducing carbon emissions:

- Comprehensive information around waste subscription charges had been provided to schools with related consultations with stakeholders.
- Concentrated work on new strategies such as an on-line portal and promotion of recycle campaign to reduce waste.
- To reduce energy consumption and carbon use, solar photovoltaic (PV) arrays had been installed on North Tyneside Homes, power down software on PC's and cavity wall installation at schools had been carried out.
- Measures were in place to reduce vehicle usage, fuel consumption and damage.

The annex to the report contained an overview of progress per project area for the three themes. It was expected that the plans in place for 2012/13 would deliver the required financial target. With regards to the 2013/14 and 2014/15 there was still a projected financial gap and work was continuing to address this.

Members questioned to the extra cost the Council would incur to resource the work to outsource services. The Head of Finance informed the committee that officers with the relevant expertise from Legal, Special Projects and Finance teams were all involved in the work to evaluate the expressions of interest. It was stated that a £200k contingency had been included in the budget to acquire any particular expertise that wasn't available within the Council.

A member enquired to the reasons to allow only four bidders through following the evaluation of the pre-qualification questionnaires (PQQ's).

In response members were informed that procurement advice had been taken, which deemed four bidders per package the most appropriate and manageable, however it was stated that the process was flexible to allow three or five bidders if it was found appropriate to do so.

A member raised concerns in relation to Equality Impact Assessments (EIA's), the member queried the criteria being used, the stage at which the EIA's were carried out, what had been the outcome from consultations, if live examples were available, had any of the bidders had links with North Tyneside and if staff had been consulted.

The Strategic Director of Strategic Services informed the Committee that EIA's was an ongoing process and all information needed to be taken into account. That consultations had and were taking place with lots of smaller groups where issues were being raised to the influences of change and the consultations would aid the Council to understand the affects any change would have on its residents.

With regards to staff consultations the committee was informed that staff were continually being informed throughout the process.

Members asked that further clarity be provided to the governance being developed to link in with plans for Public Health Transition joint Commissioning arrangement with the NHS.

In relation to Community Based Trusts members asked to how the board would be constituted. Members were informed that the Community Based Trust board would comprise of 16 Members, from the 38 applicants received. That a description and person specification for the role would be adhered to and a short listing would take place to reduce the number to 20 applicants, interviews would then take place. Members were informed that a report on Community Based Trusts would be discussed at the Council meeting on 9 February.

It was **agreed** that (1) Change Efficiency and improvement Programme – Progress Update be noted; and (2) further clarification to the governance being developed to link in with plans for Public Health Transition joint Commissioning arrangement with the NHS.

OV59/02/12 Update from the Sheltered Accommodation Lifts Sub Group

The Committee received an update to the work carried out by the Sheltered Accommodation sub group. Councillor N Redfearn the Chair of the sub group stated that the scope for the investigation had been agreed and the information required had been identified and requested.

Members of the sub group would be undertaking visits to a number of sheltered accommodations and it was its intention to reconvene on the 10 February 2012, to consider the information and formulate its recommendations to Overview and Scrutiny Committee on the 5 March.

Officers were providing weekly reports detailing where lift failures had occurred and action taken to rectify problems. Members highlighted the need to have clear up to date information when lift failures occur.

It was **agreed** that the sheltered Accommodation Lifts Sub Group update be noted.

OV60/02/12 Forward Plan

The Committee were presented with the Forward Plan covering the period February – May 2012 to identify any issues for inclusion in the committee's work programme.

- Traffic Regulation Orders – Cabinet to consider objections to Traffic Orders.

Members were informed that it was a statutory requirement that Cabinet considers objections to Traffic Orders

It was **agreed** that the February – May 2012 Forward Plan be noted.

OV61/02/12 Exclusion Resolution

Resolved that under Section 100A(4) of the Local Government Act 1972 (as amended) and having applied a public interest test as defined in Part 2 of Schedule 12A of the Act, the press and public be excluded from the meeting for the following item of business on the grounds that it involves the likely disclosure of exempt information as defined in Paragraph 1 of Part 1 of Schedule 12A to the Act.

OV62/02/12 Independent review of the provision of support to the role of the Elected Mayor of North Tyneside (Previous Minute OV52/01/12)

The Committee received a report that completed the investigation to the outstanding issues that related to the independent review of the provision of support to the elected mayor of North Tyneside.

The report concluded that

- Failings were found on the part of officers responsible in dealing with the engagement of mayoral support and those responsible had since left the Authority.
- That the monitoring officer/section 151 officer investigation and subsequent Section 5A monitoring officer report was concluded correctly.
- The review report by the independent person addressed the salient points in the original council Motion of 29 July 2010.

It was **agreed** that the Overview and Scrutiny Committee refer the conclusions of Independent Review of the Provision of Support to the Role of the Elected Mayor of North Tyneside by Brian Scott and the Chief Executives report of 6 February 2012 to Full Council in accordance with the Council Motion of 29 July 2010.