

Overview and Scrutiny Committee

1 October 2012

Present: Councillor C B Pickard (Chair)
Councillors A Austin, S Day, M Green,
J Harrison, N Huscroft, D McGarr, T Mulvenna
J O'Shea, M Rankin, N Redfearn and J Stirling.

OV39/10/12 Apologies

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors J Allan, C Gambling, I Grayson, R Glindon, M Huscroft, J McLaughlin, D Sarin and Rev M Vine.

OV40/10/12 Substitute Members

Pursuant to the Council's constitution the appointment of the following substitute Members was reported:-

Councillor J O'Shea for Councillor J Allan
Councillor M Green for Cllr R Glindon
Councillor T Mulvenna for Cllr C Gambling
Councillor N Huscroft for Councillor M Huscroft

OV41/10/12 Declarations of Interest

There were no declarations of interest was reported.

OV42/10/12 Minutes

Resolved that the minutes of the meetings held on 3 September 2012 be confirmed.

OV43/10/12 Optimising skills within the Client Function

Overview and Scrutiny Committee received a report of the processes undertaken to assure that the retained Client Team had the required skills to manage the delivery of the Business and Technical services within budget, fully contract compliant and in a timely manner.

It had been recognised at a early stage that the client team would require the responsibilities, skill and abilities to manage the process. The majority of the roles required professional and technical expertise and those officers already within the Council were identified. It was acknowledged however that there would be further developments needed in relation to contract management skills.

To identify where development was required a skills audit was being undertaken with those key individuals identified. The audit comprised of an assessment that looked at the levels of knowledge, skills and understanding linked with 12 (twelve) key contract management areas.

The skills audit enabled bespoke development plans for each individual to be put in place and would be completed by 11 October 2012.

A delivery skill training package had been developed and that the client team had gained further experience by visiting another authorities that had experience of partnership arrangements. Visits had taken place at Salford City Council, Blackburn with Darwen Borough Council and Proctor and Gamble.

The Committee were informed that any development support that was identified was expected to be delivered within existing budgets, however if additional cost were to be incurred these would be prioritised within the corporate development budget.

The approach being taken would enable the transition, mobilisation and management of the contracts and partnerships for the Council.

Members asked to the number of officers that make up the Client Team, when the bespoke training for the officers would be complete, the change management process that would be undertaken and how this would be monitored to ensure the required skills were in place.

The Committee was informed that Client team comprised of 27 managers, 8 (technical contract) and 19 (business contract) and that all development gaps would be fulfilled by mid November 2012. A mobilisation plan would be followed to ensure change management was effective, it would be monitored through the individual performance reviews of managers and regular discussion and support with line managers.

The Chief Executive reassured the Committee that the 27 managers had the required skills, however the skills audit was being undertaken to highlight areas where managers could be further supported to enhance skills.

The Chair stated that there was a concern that there may be gaps in the required skills and competencies to manage contracts and it was essential if gaps did arise that the most appropriate expertise be appointed.

Agreed that (1) the approach to ensure the Client Team have the correct skills to deliver the client role be supported; and (2) if a gap in contract management materialised the appointment of the appropriate expertise be made.

OV43/10/12 Gambling Act 2005 Draft Statement of Licensing Policy (Gambling)

The Committee received a report for consideration regarding the Draft Statement of Licensing Policy (Gambling). It was asked to make any observations or recommendations to the Cabinet Member for Regulatory Services on the draft policy.

The revised policy would replace the existing policy that came into force on the 31 January 2010. The draft policy statement had been subject to a 12 week period of consultation that had commenced on 21 May 2012 and ended on the 10 August 2012. The consultation was in line with best practice methods and those consulted included the public, North Tyneside MP's, MEP's, Councillors' and Strategic Directors of the Council.

The Committee was informed that final proposals would be presented to the Committee on the 5 November 2012 before endorsed at Full Council on 29 November 2012.

The Committee was informed that it was at the discretion of Full Council to pass a 'no casino' resolution, that at the current time no such resolution had been taken. The

consensus of the Committee was that Full Council be recommended to consider taking a 'no casino' resolution.

Agreed that the draft Statement of Licensing (Gambling) be endorsed with the recommendation that a 'no casino' resolution be taken.

**OV44/10/12 Council Strategic Plan and 2012/13 Budget Implementation Plan
(Previous Minute OV31/09/12)**

The Committee received the latest version of the Implementation Plan revised following the Cabinet meeting 13 August 2012.

The Committee were updated to discussions that had taken place with the Chief Executive, Strategic Director of Finance and Resources, Chairs of both Overview & Scrutiny Committee and Finance Sub Committee, with regard to the Budget and Council Plan Study Group status. The views of those discussions were following the legal advice on the responsibilities and functions of the Executive, the in-depth and intensive work undertaken by the Budget and Council Plan Study Group was not required.

It was proposed that the Committee receives the Cabinet's initial and final proposals as per the Budget and Policy Framework Rules of procedure. At the meeting to receive the final proposals in January 2013 all information should be of a non-confidential nature where possible.

The Committee were informed about items 30 and 31 in the Implementation Plan, it was confirmed that the creation of Ward Forums with devolved budgets and the creation of a Ward Community Budget were matters falling under the responsibility of Cabinet. It was also informed that the Mayor was open to the consideration to any proposals forwarded in relation to Area Forum Budgets.

Members stated that it was the first instance that they had been notified that the Mayor would consider proposal put forward and requested a letter detailing this be sent to all Members of the Council.

Agreed that (1) the Council Strategic Plan and 2012/13 Budget Implementation Plan be noted; (2) the Budget and Council Plan Study Group be abolished for 2012/13; and (3) a letter detailing the Mayors agreement to consider proposals in relation to Area Forum Budgets be sent to all Members of the Council.

**OV45/10/12 Change Efficiency and Improvement Programme – update
(Previous Minute OV32/09/12)**

The Chief Executive updated the Committee on the position of the Change Efficiency and Improvement Programme.

A number of clarification questions were asked and answered with regards to the information appended to the report.

A Member asked to the position of the Weekly Collection Support Scheme bid for funding. The Chief Executive stated that notification would not be given until later in October.

Agreed that the Change Efficiency and Improvement Programme be noted.

OV46/10/12 Forward Plan

The Committee was presented with the Forward Plan covering the period 1 October 2012 – 31 January 2013 to identify any issues for inclusion in the committee's work programme.

Agreed that the 1 October 2012 – 31 January 2013 Forward Plans be noted;

OV47/10/12 Overview and Scrutiny Work Programme 2012/13

The Committee received the Work programme 2012/13 and was asked to agree its contents.

The Work Programme detailed the topics prioritised for Overview and Scrutiny and its sub-committees to undertake in 2012/13. Consultation had been undertaken with Members, Area Forums and the Directorate Heads of Service.

In addition to the topics, scrutiny would continue to monitor the delivery of the Change, Efficiency and Improvement programme and review the Forward Plan.

The Committee was advised that the sub-committee should focus on a small number of in-depth topics, which would result in well researched recommendations for decision makers both internal and external to consider. Appended to the report was a scoping document to be used at the instigation of all studies and would ensure that the purpose and aims of any study would focus to the required outcomes.

When studies were to be undertaken it was advised that various way of working be used i.e. informal meetings with officers, study groups and the engagement of service users.

Two areas of priority for in-depth reviews were:

- Public Health – Impact of public Health moving to Local Authority remit/Integration of Public Health into North Tyneside Council.
- Child Poverty with joint working with Members from Children, Education and Skills and Adult Social Care, Health and Wellbeing Sub Committee's.

The Chair informed the Committee that following discussions commitment had been given that officers of all Directorates would be provided to support any in-depth studies being undertaken within their service area.

Agreed that (1) The contents of the report and Overview and Scrutiny Work Programme 2012/13 be endorsed; (2) the scoping document to be used by sub committees/study groups undertaking in-depth investigations be endorsed; (3) support be provided by each Directorate when studies are being undertaken in their service areas; and (4) priority for in-depth studies be given to:

- Public Health – Impact of public Health moving to Local Authority remit/Integration of Public Health into North Tyneside Council.
- Child Poverty with joint working with Members from Children, Education and Skills and Adult Social Care, Health and Wellbeing Sub Committee's.