

Overview and Scrutiny Committee

2 April 2013

Present: Councillor C B Pickard (Chair)
Councillors J Allan, B Burdis, B Caithness,
C Gambling, R Glendon, J Harrison, D McGarr,
and J Stirling.

School Governor Representatives
Mrs J Little
Mrs M Ord

OV86/02/13 Apologies

Apologies for absence was received from Councillors I Grayson, M Rankin, N Redfearn and Rev M Vine.

OV87/04/13 Substitute Members

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

Councillor B Caithness for Councillor I Grayson
Councillor B Burdis for Cllr M Rankin

OV88/04/13 Declarations of Interest

There were no declarations of interest reported.

OV89/04/13 Minutes

Resolved that the minutes of the meetings held on 4 March 2013 be confirmed.

OV90/04/13 Change Efficiency and Improvement Programme – Update (Previous Minute OV83/03/13)

The Committee received a report that detailed the progress across all themes of the CEI programme. The report focussed on completed projects during 2012/13 financial year and identified areas to achieve further savings during 2013/14, also detailed was the financial position for the final two years (2013/14 and 2014/15) of the programme.

The report detailed that current plans in place had made savings of £16,739m for 2012/13, with forecasted savings of £12,239 in year 2013/14 and £3,591m in year 2014/15.

The report also detailed the projects for the current year and those that would be progressed in 2013/14 for each of the three themes of the programme.

The Chief Executive stated that work would continue to explore areas where further savings could be found and highlighted that it was a possibility that further savings would

be needed following the Governments new Comprehensive Spending Review which was due to be announced in late June 2013

The Chair stated that the projects that were to be progressed in year 2013/14 be referred for consideration for inclusion to the relevant scrutiny sub-committees work programmes.

Agreed that (1) The Change Efficiency and Improvement Programme update be noted; and (2) that the projects to be progressed in 2013/14 be referred for consideration for inclusion to the relevant scrutiny sub-committees work programmes.

OV91/04/13 Councils Strategic Plan and 2012/13 Budget – Implementation Plan (Previous Minute OV84/03/13)

The Committee received an update on the changes to the Council Strategic Plan and 2012/13 Budget – Implementation Plan.

A Member requested clarification to the position of the progress of item 64 regarding the Learning Village and the collaboration with other authorities and agencies. The Chief Executive stated that a number of activities had taken place with regards to the North Bank of the Tyne and that the Council had shared all its plans and a report had been considered at Cabinet.

A Member requested that the Committee receive a briefing paper detailing progress of Item 64 on the Implementation Plan.

The Chair requested clarification to the responsibility of the Council Strategic Plan. The Chief Executive confirmed that the responsibility for the plan was Full Council's.

Agreed that (1) Council Strategic Plan and 2012/13 Budget – Implementation Plan be noted; and (2) a briefing paper be provided to Members of the Committee detailing the progress to Item 64 of the Implementation Plan.

OV92/04/13 Overview and Scrutiny Annual Report

The Committee was presented with the 2012/13 Overview and Scrutiny Annual Report that detailed the work undertaken by Overview and Scrutiny Committee and each of its sub-committees during the previous year. Also detailed was the work undertaken by sub-groups which carried out investigations on specific topics such as Child Poverty, Public Health Transition and the Core Strategy.

Agreed that the Overview and Scrutiny Annual Report be submitted to Annual Council on 16 May 2013.

Chairs Urgent Item

OV93/04/13 Core Strategy Sub-group: Interim Report

The Chair presented a report that detailed the work carried out by the Core Strategy sub-group, with a recommendation that an interim report be submitted to Cabinet.

The Committee was informed that the sub-group had received information in relation to the themes of Housing and Population and Employment Land. Through receipt of information the sub-group noted that a number of assessments/reviews were to be undertaken that would provide updated evidence for the Core Strategy.

The expectation was that the information would be available in June 2013 and in respect of this it was recommended that Cabinet be requested to delay the public consultation on the Core Strategy for a period of 3 months. The delay would allow the most up to date information to be available in advance of the consultation.

Agreed that Cabinet be requested to allow the timescale for the publication and public engagement on the Consultation Draft of the Core Strategy to be delayed for up to 3 months to allow a number of assessments/reviews to be taken into account.

OV 94/04/13 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 Two 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 3 of Part One of Schedule 12A of the Act.

OV95/04/13 Risk Management issues associated with the Business and Technical Packages (Previous Minute OV85/03/13)

The report set out a proposal that was to be considered by Cabinet, to set up a Monitoring Committee, consisting of Members from all parties to monitor all red risk issues for the Business and Technical Partnerships.

The Committee was informed of the background to the request of the proposal to establish the Monitoring Committee, the ongoing approach to risk management since the partnerships went live on 1 November 2012 and highlighted the impact of introducing further arrangements in addition to those already in place.

The Committee was also informed of arrangements for contract briefings for all members and the proposal that quarterly performance reporting be introduced to enable Cabinet and Overview and Scrutiny Committee to have more comprehensive information regarding the partnerships and not scrutinising the red risks in isolation.

Also appended to the report were responses to questions raised by the Committee on the 4 March 2013.

Members asked and responses were provided to questions on:

- The process of escalation in respect of any failure to perform
- Possible changes to services following changes made by Central Government
- The current monitoring process
- The role of Members in the Strategic Partnership Board and
- The role of Audit Committee with regards to Corporate Risk.

A Member requested that the notes of the discussions of the Strategic Partnership Boards meeting be made available.

The Chair stated that officers would be provided with written questions and comments for consideration and inclusion to the Cabinet report.

Agreed that (1) the report on the Risk Management issues associated with the Business and Technical Packages and appended responses to questions be noted and (2) the Overview and Scrutiny committee would provide officers with written questions and comments for consideration and inclusion to the Cabinet report.