

Overview and Scrutiny Committee

3 June 2013

Present: Councillor S Graham (Chair)
Councillors B Burdis, A Cowie, S Day, John Hunter,
D McGarr, P McIntyre, A McMullen, L Miller,
A Normand, M Rankin and J Walker

School Governor Representatives
Mrs J Little
Mrs M Ord

Church Representatives
Rev M Vine

OV1/6/13 Apologies

Apologies for absence was received from Cllrs J Allan, Marian Huscroft and P Mason.

OV2/6/13 Substitute Members

There was no substitute Members.

OV3/6/13 Declarations of Interest

There were no declarations of interest reported.

OV4/6/13 Minutes

Resolved that the minutes of the meetings held on 2 April 2013 be confirmed.

OV5/6/13 Change, Efficiency and Improvement Programme: Progress Update (Previous Minute OV90/04/13)

The Committee received a report that detailed the progress across all themes of the CEI programme. The focus of the report was the progress of projects for the two months prior and key milestones two month after the June meeting. Appended to the report was details of the 2013/14 savings and the agreed Red, Amber, Green (RAG) ratings for each project area.

The plans in place forecasted savings of £12,239m for 2013/14.

Members indicated that the appended information detailed that some projects rated Red/Amber had project end date either past or was nearing its completion date. It was stated that the report did not inform the Committee for the reasons why projects were rated Red/Amber.

In response the Strategic Manager Policy & Partnerships reassured the Committee that future reports would provide any issues and reasons behind why projects were rated Red/Amber.

With reference to Theme C a Member requested that the report from Defra commending the work carried out by the Council on the waste disposal contract be circulated to the Committee.

The Committee then were given the background summary of the work being carried out for each of the projects rated Red/Amber.

Agreed that (1) the Change, Efficiency and Improvement Programme update be noted; and (2) the report from Defra commending the work carried out by the Council on the waste disposal contract be circulated to the Committee.

OV6/6/13 Overview and Scrutiny Work Programme 2013-14

A report was received that detailed the outcome of the Scrutiny Chairs/Deputy Chairs meeting 22 May 2013 that had agreed that the focus of the Overview and Scrutiny Committee should be to undertake in-depth studies in priority policy areas.

A long list of priority topics was agreed and the sub committee's would consider those in their remit with a view to agree a work programme for 2013-14.

Those that fell into the Overview and Scrutiny remit were:

- Engagement,
- North Tyneside Strategic Partnership (NTSP),
- Council Plan and Sustainable Community Strategy and
- Review the key performance indicators of the Council Partners.

It was raised that as the Council had a new administration it was thought to be wise to have an understanding to the areas of priority it would have before finalising the work programme. It was proposed and seconded that agreement to the Overview and Scrutiny work programme 2013-14 be delayed until such understanding.

Members raised that Engagement was a area of study that should be considered as there was currently ongoing work programmed on the Council's Forward Plan in relation to Community Engagement. It was also raised that consultation had been raised as an issue on a number of the CEI projects.

It was proposed that a report be submitted on Community Engagement to the Overview and Scrutiny Committee at its meeting 1 July and that a request for the relevant Cabinet Member and officers be present to answer questions.

Agreed that (1) the Overview and Scrutiny Work Programme 2013-14 be postponed until an understanding of the Councils priorities is known; and (2) a report be submitted on Community Engagement to the Overview and Scrutiny Committee meeting 1 July and that a request for the relevant Cabinet Member and officers be present.

OV7/6/13 Referral from Cabinet – Monitoring of Business and Technical Partnerships Red Risks

The Committee considered a request from Cabinet that a all party sub-group be established to monitor red risks in relation to the Business and Technical Partnerships on a bi-monthly basis.

Members proposed and agreed that the most beneficial approach to monitor red risks of the partnerships would be to delegate this task to the Finance Sub-committee to undertake.

Agreed that the Finance Sub-committee be responsible the monitoring of the Business and Technical Partnerships Red Risks.

OV8/6/13 Overview and Scrutiny Sub-groups

The Committee considered the way forward in relation to its Core Strategy Sub-group.

It was informed that there was a need to review the sub-groups membership and consider a Council Motion relating to the processing of the planning application for Scaffold Hill Farm.

The Committee agreed that the additional piece of work in relation to the Scaffold Hill Farm planning application be undertaken by the Core Strategy Sub-group. It also agreed that Councillor J Allan Chair the sub-group with Councillor J O'Shea and M Rankin to join the group.

It was raised that Members not present at the meeting be contacted and given the opportunity to join the sub-group.

Agreed that (1) the Core Strategy Sub-group undertake the additional piece of work in relation to the Scaffold Hill Farm planning application following the Council Motion on the 14 March; and (2) Cllr Allan to become Chair of the sub group, with Cllrs O'Shea and Rankin joining the sub-group. That those Members not in attendance at the meeting be invited to join the sub-group.

OV9/6/13 Meeting Start Time

Agreed that meeting start times of Overview and Scrutiny Committee for 2013/14 start at 6pm.