

Overview, Scrutiny & Policy Development Committee

25 May 2017

Present: Councillor S Graham (Chair)
Councillors J Allan, S Cox, P Earley, Janet Hunter,
A McMullen, P Oliver, L Spillard and M Thirlaway

Parent Governor Representative
Mrs M Ord

OV01/05/17 Apologies

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors M Rankin, J Wallace and Rev M Vine – Church Representative

OV02/05/17 Substitute Members

There were no substitute Members

OV03/05/17 Declarations of Interest

There were no declarations of interest reported

OV04/05/17 Minutes

Resolved that minute of the meeting held on 3 April 2017 be confirmed;

OV05/05/17 Office Accommodation Review- Update

The Committee received a report that provided information on a number of outstanding issues and concerns raised at the previous meeting of the Committee on 3 April 2017. These were in relation to the letting of the Wallsend Customer First Centre (WCFC).

At the 3 April meeting, the Committee requested that the Chair/Deputy Chair and committee members meet with officers to agree all outstanding issues in relation to the WCFC, this was to ensure a comprehensive response to the Committee's concerns would be able to be provided.

The Chair/Deputy Chair met with relevant officers on two occasions 13 April & 11 May 2017.

The report considered provided full explanations to each of the issues raised.

It was emphasised that since the time of the original lease was agreed, the Elected Mayor had put in place robust governance arrangements to oversee strategic property related matters.

Through the creation of the Investment Programme Board (IPB) and the Strategic Property Group (SPG), extensive scrutiny was in place to all strategic property

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matters. The Committee was assured that any new letting proposal would be subject to scrutiny through the IPB & SPB before the requirement of being endorsed by Cabinet.

In addressing the Committee the Head of Commissioning & Investment stated that lessons had been learned and the governance procedures now in place ensured that there was a greater understanding of how the Authority would deal with future accommodation priorities in the longer term.

Agreed that the Office Accommodation Review – update be noted.

OV06/05/17 Work Programme

A report was considered that detailed the work undertaken to seek topics suitable for the Overview, Scrutiny & Policy Development Committee to consider in 2017/18.

The Committee was reminded that at its meeting 10 January it had agreed the next in-depth review would be in relation with the Capita Partnership and arrangements were in place for this work to start with seven members volunteering to be part of the sub group.

The Committee was also reminded that it agreed to establish a further sub group to review the delivery of the Authority's ICT strategy and a sub group would be established to undertake this piece of work.

The Chair encouraged all members to participate in future studies undertaken during the new municipal year and hoped that some good cross party scrutiny would be accomplished.

Members raised possible other areas, where it was thought scrutiny would benefit, these being:

- a. Specialism's for Children – Educational Psychologists, a concern to delays/perceived delays for the provision of support.
- b. Continuing Health Care Assessments – to investigate the impact on individuals through the reduction of care packages.

The Chair informed the Committee that the further topic suggestions would be considered at the next Scrutiny Chair & Deputy Chair meeting where they would then be allocated to the most appropriate sub-committee to consider.

Agreed that (1) the future topics for review on the Capita Partnership and ICT delivery be noted; and (2) the topics of Specialism for Children – Educational Psychologists and Continuing Health Care Assessments to be considered at the next Scrutiny Chair & Deputy Chair meeting.