

OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE**THURSDAY, 14 MARCH 2002 AT 2.00 PM**

PRESENT: Councillors Bowman (substitute for Councillor J Prest), Bradley, Ellis, S Fisher (substitute for Councillor Jefferson), Guest, Knapton, E Mallinson and C Rutherford.

OSM.20/02 APPOINTMENT OF CHAIRMAN FOR THE MEETING

In the absence of the Chairman and Vice-Chairman, it was –

RESOLVED - That Councillor E Mallinson be appointed Chairman for this meeting.

Councillor E Mallinson in the Chair.

OSM.21/02 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies for absence were submitted on behalf of Councillors Jefferson (Chairman) and J Prest (Vice-Chairman).

OSM.22/02 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

There were no declarations of interest affecting any item on the Agenda.

OSM.23/02 MINUTES

The Minutes of the meetings held on 17 January and 14 February 2002 were agreed as a correct record of the meetings and signed by the Chairman.

OSM.24/02 MINUTES OF OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY COMMITTEES**AND REFERENCES TO MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE**

(a) and (b) Community Overview and Scrutiny Committee of 12 and 21 February 2002

RESOLVED - That such Minutes be noted.

(c) Community Overview and Scrutiny Committee of 26 February 2002

(1) The above special meeting had dealt with the Government's consultation document entitled "Managing Radioactive Waste Safely: Proposals for Developing a Policy for Managing Solid Radioactive Waste in the UK".

A Member questioned why this matter had been dealt with solely by the Community Overview and Scrutiny Committee, as the aspects of the document dealing with waste storage would come under the remit of the Infrastructure Overview and Scrutiny Committee.

The Head of Corporate Policy and Strategy indicated that the consultation document had been received by the Executive Portfolio Holder who had suggested that it be considered by the Community Overview and Scrutiny Committee. A special meeting of that Committee had been arranged in consultation with the Chairman.

Members considered that the decision as to which Overview and Scrutiny Committee a matter should fall to be dealt with rested with this Management Committee and not Executive Portfolio Holders. Where timescales permitted, the Management Committee should make the decision, although if timescales did not permit, then Officers should consult with the Chairman of this Management Committee. It was pointed out that where a matter cut across two or more areas of responsibility, joint meetings of the relevant Overview and Scrutiny Committees could be held.

Members also considered that when matters as important as the consultation document on radioactivity were being considered, then a further option of a presentation to all Members of the City Council should be considered. A presentation could then be followed by a meeting of the appropriate Overview and Scrutiny Committee(s) to finalise a response.

Members also asked the Head of Corporate Policy and Strategy to ensure that when reports are prepared from Overview and Scrutiny Committees for consideration by the Executive, a copy of the final report is circulated to Overview and Scrutiny Members for information.

2. Referring to Minute COS.45/02, dealing with the Carlisle Crime and Disorder Audit Summary 1999/2001, a Member referred to the Audit Summary describing Castle Ward as a hotspot for a variety of crime types. This appeared to relate to the incidences of violent crime in the City Centre area resulting from alcohol related disorder. He pointed out that Castle Ward extended far beyond the City Centre area and that the residential parts of the Ward may be able to be described as a hotspot for other types of crime such as domestic burglaries.

A Member considered that the press release issued had given a very distorted view of the Crime Audit Survey overall.

RESOLVED - That the Minutes of the meeting of the Community Overview and Scrutiny Committee held on 26 February 2002 be noted.

(d) Corporate Resources Overview and Scrutiny Committee of 28 February 2002

Referring to Minute CROS.28/02(b) dealing with the District Audit Management letter, the Chairman asked that a copy of this letter be sent to all Members of the City Council.

Referring to Minute CROS.32/02(b) dealing with the Performance Indicators Report, a Member considered that Member training in Performance Management should be pursued

as soon as possible.

Another Member considered that Member training in dealing with Best Value Reviews at the Committee stage would also be of benefit.

The Head of Corporate Policy and Strategy indicated that he would be seeking the views of the Overview and Scrutiny Committees at their first meetings in the new Municipal Year with regard to their training requirements so that a training programme for 2002/03 could be formulated.

RESOLVED - That the Minutes of the meeting of the Corporate Resources Overview and Scrutiny Committee of 28 February 2002 be noted.

OSM.25/02 EXECUTIVE RESPONSES TO MATTERS RAISED BY

THE OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY COMMITTEES

Executive Meetings

Further to Minute Ref EX.47/02, it was reported that the Executive had agreed that the Chairman of the relevant Overview and Scrutiny Committee would be invited to attend Executive meetings when references from that Committee were being considered.

RESOLVED - That the decision of the Executive be welcomed.

OSM.26/02 WORK PROGRAMME FOR OVERVIEW AND

SCRUTINY COMMITTEES

Amended Work Programmes for all of the Overview and Scrutiny Committees were submitted.

The Head of Corporate Policy and Strategy indicated that, since the last meeting, items on the Rural Strategy and the District Audit Management letter had been referred to Overview and Scrutiny Committees.

He indicated that Best Value Reviews on Bereavement Services and Community Safety had been delayed and that both Reviews would be reprogrammed.

With regard to Performance Indicators, he indicated that the Overview and Scrutiny Committees would be focusing on those services which were in the lower quartile in order that improvement plans could be put in place for these services.

With regard to Subject reviews, an opportunity to suggest areas for review would be extended to the Citizens Panel, members of staff and all Members of the City Council. The suggestions would then be grouped and submitted to individual Committees for their views in due course as part of next year's work programmes.

A Member pointed out that reviews in respect of dog fouling and the City/County Capital relationship were ongoing.

Reference was made to a report being prepared by the Head of Corporate Policy and Strategy, drawing together the views of the three Overview and Scrutiny Committees with

regard to the Rural Strategy Document for onward transmission to the Executive at their meeting on 25 March 2002. The report had been sent to the Chairman of the Corporate Resources Overview and Scrutiny Committee for approval in accordance with the Committee's earlier decision. The report would be circulated to the Chairmen of the Community and Infrastructure Overview and Scrutiny Committees once approved.

Discussion arose on the Overview and Scrutiny Committees' input to the Council's budget process.

The Head of Corporate Policy and Strategy acknowledged that there had been difficulties in the circulation of budgetary information through the Overview and Scrutiny process following the introduction of the new structures. He understood that the process for the 2003/04 budget would be started earlier with reports being fed through the Overview and Scrutiny Committee system as they were received.

OSM.27/02 MONITORING OF AND CHANGES TO THE FORWARD PLAN

The Town Clerk and Chief Executive submitted report TC.56/02 informing Members of changes to the Executive's Forward Plan for the period 1 February 2002 to 31 May 2002 since its publication on 18 January 2002.

RESOLVED – That the modifications, deferrals and departures from the Forward Plan for 1 February 2002 to 31 May 2002 be noted.

OSM.28/02 DEVELOPING THE HEALTH SCRUTINY ROLE – CONSULTATION

A report from the Director of Housing (H.23/02) and an addendum prepared by the Head of Corporate Policy and Strategy was submitted concerning a Department of Health consultation document "Local Authority Health Overview and Scrutiny". A copy of the full Department of Health consultation document was tabled at the meeting, following a request from the Chairman.

Members considered that the subject matter was within the remit of the Community Overview and Scrutiny Committee and should, therefore, be considered by that Committee. The Chairman of the Community Overview and Scrutiny Committee undertook to arrange a special meeting to deal with this report.

On a general note, Members made the following comments about consultation documents which they asked to be forwarded to the CMT:-

Consultation documents should be circulated to the appropriate Executive Portfolio holder and the Head of Corporate Policy and Strategy as soon as they are received in order that they can be included in the Overview and Scrutiny process without delay.

When consultation documents are being considered by Members, a copy of the full consultation document should accompany a report on the document from the appropriate technical Officer.

Officers should be made aware of the need to include Overview and Scrutiny in the process

on consultation documents to ensure that reports are brought forward as soon as practicable after receipt to avoid the need for special meetings to meet consultation deadline dates.

RESOLVED – (1) That consideration of the report, addendum and the Department of Health consultation document on developing the health scrutiny role be referred to a special meeting of the Community Overview and Scrutiny Committee.

(2) That the views of this Committee with regard to consultation documents be brought to the attention of CMT.

OSM.29/02 CORPORATE PLAN PROCESS AND TIMETABLE

A timetable for consideration of the Corporate Plan which had been agreed by the Executive on 11 March 2002 was submitted. The timetable was subject to this Committee agreeing the Overview and Scrutiny consultation arrangements.

RESOLVED – (1) That the arrangements for an Overview and Scrutiny Workshop on 21 March 2002 with all three Committees be agreed, subject to an invitation to attend being extended to all non-Executive Members of the City Council.

(2) That following the Workshop on 21 March 2002, meetings of the three Overview and Scrutiny Committees be arranged to decide on their responses to the Executive. The Community Overview and Scrutiny Committee would deal with their response at their ordinary meeting on 4 April 2002 and the Town Clerk and Chief Executive be requested to liaise with the Chairmen of the other two Overview and Scrutiny Committees to arrange special meetings in time for responses to be despatched on 8 April 2002 for consideration by the Executive at their meeting on 15 April 2002.

(3) That a further presentation on the draft Corporate Plan take place on 7 June 2002 to all non-Executive Members of the Council and which would be immediately followed by individual meetings of the three Overview and Scrutiny Committees to deal with their formal responses to the Executive.

OSM.30/02 REVIEW OF THE CONSTITUTION

The City Solicitor and Secretary reported that he had prepared a report on a housekeeping review of anomalies discovered in the Constitution since it had been adopted in September 2001.

The report would be submitted to the City Council meeting on 30 April 2002 and arrangements were being made for the Executive to comment on the report at their meeting on 15 April 2002.

He sought the Committee's instructions on the arrangements to be made for Overview and Scrutiny to input into the Review.

RESOLVED – That as the Community Overview and Scrutiny Committee has responsibility for improving democratic involvement within its remit, the City Solicitor and Secretary be requested to submit his report on the Review of the Constitution to that Committee for consultation purposes.

(The meeting ended at 3.30 pm)