

SCRUTINY MANAGEMENT BOARD

Minutes of a Meeting of the Scrutiny Management Board held on Wednesday, 27 November 2019 at 10.30 am at Committee Room 1 - County Offices, Kendal, LA9 4RQ

PRESENT:

Mr WJ Wearing (Chairman)

Mr SB Collins
Mr C Hogg

Mr J Lister
Mrs V Tarbitt

Also in Attendance:-

Ms H Blake	-	Senior Manager - Customer, Policy and Scrutiny
Mrs L Davis	-	Democratic Services Officer
Dr D Roberts	-	Executive Director - Corporate, Customer and Community Services
Mr D Stephens	-	Strategic Policy & Scrutiny Advisor

PART 1 – ITEMS CONSIDERED IN THE PRESENCE OF THE PUBLIC AND PRESS

24 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies for absence were received from Mr J Airey, Mr P Dew, Ms C Driver Mrs S Evans, Dr S Haraldsen and Mr M Wilson.

25 MEMBERSHIP

It was noted that Mr P Dew had replaced Mr B Shirley as a member of the Board.

26 DISCLOSURES OF INTEREST

Mr C Hogg declared a non pecuniary interest in Agenda Item No 8 – Scrutiny Chairs Update - as he is a member of the Cumbria LEP.

Mr S Collins declared a non pecuniary interest in Agenda Item No 9 – Call In Items - as he is one of the call in members.

27 EXCLUSION OF PRESS AND PUBLIC

RESOLVED, that the press and public be not excluded from the meeting during consideration of any item on the agenda.

28 MINUTES

RESOLVED, that the minutes of the meeting held on 16 September 2019 be agreed as an accurate record and signed by the Chair.

29 SCRUTINY FEEDBACK ON STRATEGIC PLANNING

Members received a report by the Strategy Policy and Scrutiny Advisor providing a summary of scrutiny engagement in strategic planning for 2020-2021, and asking the Scrutiny Management Board to agree the key points to be included in Scrutiny's formal response to Cabinet in respect of the budget consultation.

A session had been held on 26 November for all non-executive members to examine in detail the Council's budget proposals that had been issued for consultation. A draft report summarising the feedback and views provided by members in attendance at the strategic planning scrutiny session was circulated at the meeting. The Chair thanked the Scrutiny Strategic and Policy Advisor for the work undertaken.

In a wide ranging discussion there were calls for further use of intelligent automation, greater engagement with the LGA and a rolling renewal programme of the Council's fleet using electric vehicles wherever possible. In responding to the issues raised the Executive Director – Corporate, Customer and Community Services outlined all the work being undertaken in relation to intelligent automation. A visit to the Council's Service Centre was being arranged for members, before a comparative visit to North Yorkshire County Council.

RESOLVED that

- (a) the key points and recommendations circulated at the meeting and expanded upon at the meeting be included in Scrutiny's formal response to the budget consultation;
- (b) the draft response to the budget consultation be circulated to Members of the Board via email for agreement; the Chair and Vice Chair to formally agree the final version.

30 SCRUTINY PERFORMANCE WORKING GROUP UPDATE

Members received a report from the Senior Manager Customer, Policy and Scrutiny providing an update from the Scrutiny Performance Working Group. The draft minutes from the Working Group's meeting in October were appended to the report.

Members had found the one day Absence Task and Finish Group useful and the final report would be presented to Cabinet in January 2020, following member feedback and the Chair and Vice Chair's approval of the draft report.

It was noted that, in order to keep performance under review, the monthly DTOC figures would be received by the Scrutiny Advisory Board – Adults. The Joint Advisory Group for Adults and Health Scrutiny would also be looking at this issue.

Members noted that a report to update on the delivery of the Council's Customer Strategy would be presented to March meeting of the Scrutiny Management Board.

RESOLVED, that the report be noted.

31 SCRUTINY CHAIRS UPDATE

The Board received an update on the work of the Scrutiny Advisory Boards, Panels and Committees from each of the Chairs.

(1) Cumbria Police and Crime Panel

The Board received a written update on the work of the Cumbria Police and Crime Panel. The Panel had received the Annual Report from the Joint Audit Committee providing assurance on the arrangements for governance of the Police and Crime Commissioner. Members were informed that a representative from the Panel was attending the National Police and Crime Panel Conference in November. The next meeting of the Panel would be held in January 2020 and focussing on the Council Tax precept for the year ahead.

(2) Scrutiny Advisory Board – Children and Young People

The Chair updated members on the work on the Scrutiny Advisory Board – Children and Young People. A number of issues had been considered at their meeting in September. The next meeting would focus on Child Exploitation, an update on SEND, the Youth Justice Strategy and Youth Parliament. A member of the Youth Parliament had been invited to attend. Members noted that members of the Board had joined the Joint Health and Care Advisory Group's meeting in October to scrutinise the draft Adverse Childhood Experiences (ACE) action plan. The Chair was now a member of the SEND Improvement Board.

The Chair requested that a review of the implementation of the recommendations from the Autism Task and Finish Group be undertaken.

(3) Cumbria Health Scrutiny Committee

A report on the work of the Cumbria Health Scrutiny Committee was presented to members. A number of topics had been discussed at the Committee meeting in October. The next meeting would consider primary care networks, system plans, winter preparedness plans, recruitment and retention, vascular services in North Cumbria and digital records.

(4) Scrutiny Advisory Board – Adults

Members received a written report from the Chair of the Scrutiny Advisory Board – Adults. The Board had met in October and considered a number of issues. The report outlined agenda items for the January meeting of the Board.

(5) Cumbria LEP Scrutiny

The Chair advised members of the work of the LEP Scrutiny Board. The Board had met in September and considered the Cumbria LEP Delivery Plan, identification of new Cumbria LEP projects, development of the Local Industrial Strategy Work Plan for People, Employment and Skills and finally received an update on the LEP's mid-year review. Members were informed that the next meeting would take place in March to consider progress on the Local Industrial Strategy Implementation Plan.

(6) Scrutiny Advisory Board – Communities and Place

The Chair of the Scrutiny Advisory Board – Communities and Place verbally updated members on the meeting of the Board that took place on 25 November. A number of topics had been discussed.

The Board was requesting a Task and Finish Group on the council's effectiveness of approach to securing planning section agreements. The scope for this would be discussed at their Board meeting in March, after which it would be submitted to the Chair and Vice Chair of the Management Board for sign off.

RESOLVED, that

- (1) the reports be noted;
- (2) the scope for a Task and Finish Group on the council's effectiveness of approach to securing planning section agreements be discussed at the Communities and Place Board in March, and then agreed by the Chair and Vice Chair of behalf of SMB;
- (3) a review of the implementation of the Autism Task and Finish Group's recommendations take place.

32 CALL IN ITEMS

The Senior Manager Policy and Scrutiny updated the board on Call In requests. A Call In had been received relating to the decision made by Cabinet on 17th October to award the Copeland 0-19 Childrens Services Contract to Family Action. After the clarification meeting, the Call In was withdrawn but there was agreement that a thorough lessons learnt exercise would be undertaken and it was proposed to take this work forward through a scrutiny task and finish group.

A further Call In had been received relating to the decision of Cabinet on 14th November to cease residential care provision at the Abbey in Staveley and the closure of the home. A clarification meeting was currently being arranged.

33 SCRUTINY MANAGEMENT BOARD BRIEFING

The Board considered a report which provided an update on issues and developments that had occurred since the meeting of the Board in September 2019.

The Senior Manager Customer, Policy and Scrutiny advised on the Absence Task and Finish Group and asked for agreement for the Chair and Vice Chair of the Management Board to agree the final report for submission to Cabinet in January 2020. The Senior Manager agreed to refresh the work programme to include the decisions taken at this meeting.

RESOLVED, that

- (1) the range of activity be noted;
- (2) the work programme presented in Appendix 1 of the report be refreshed to include decisions made at this meeting;
- (3) a Task and Finish Group be established to explore lessons learnt relating to the work undertaken recently in respect of the Family Support contract; the Chair and Vice Chair of the Scrutiny Management Board to agree the final scope of the Task and Finish Group on behalf of SMB.

34 DATE OF NEXT MEETING

It was noted that the next meeting will take place on 3 March 2020 at 10.00 am in Cumbria House, Carlisle. The Chair reminded members that the LEP Scrutiny meeting would also be held on that day and emphasised the need to keep their diaries clear for the whole day.

The meeting ended at 11.35 am