

# OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY CO-ORDINATING COMMITTEE

Monday, 24th September, 2012

**Present:-** Councillor Mrs Elizabeth Shenton – in the Chair

Councillors Councillor George Cairns, Councillor Colin Eastwood, Councillor Mrs Hilda Johnson, Councillor David Loades, Councillor Ian Matthews, Councillor Stephen Sweeney and Councillor Miss June Walklate

## 1. APOLOGIES

Apologies were received from Councillor Mrs Heames, Councillor M. Olszewski and Councillor Mrs Williams.

## 2. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

Declarations of interest were received as follows:

- Councillor Cairns – Park Road, Silverdale Community Centre Management Committee and Silverdale Social Centre Community Centre Management Committee.
- Councillor Mrs Johnson – Chesterton Community Centre Management Committee, Crackley Community Centre Management Committee and Red Street Community Centre Management Committee.
- Councillor Matthews – Marsh Hall Community Centre Management Committee.
- Councillor Sweeney – Clayton Community Centre Management Committee.
- Councillor Miss Walklate – Harriet Higgins Community Centre Management Committee and Whitfield Community Centre Management Committee.

## 3. MINUTES FROM THE PREVIOUS MEETING

**RESOLVED:** That the minutes of the meeting held on 11 September 2012 be agreed as a correct record.

## 4. COMMUNITY CENTRE REVIEW

The Committee considered the Members who would constitute the Community Centre Review Member working party. The Chair had informed Full Council of the request for nominations for the working group at its 12 September meeting and a letter had been sent to Group Leaders requesting nominations from the political parties.

It was agreed the following Members would form the working group:

- Councillor Cairns
- Councillor Hambleton
- Councillor Mrs Heesom
- Councillor Loades

- Councillor Robinson
- Councillor Mrs Shenton

The previously agreed scrutiny brief would be received by the working group, and it would be the decision of the group how often they met and when to report back to the Committee. The working group's timescales and workload would be influenced by the Officers work and it was emphasised that the group would be shadowing Officers rather than the review. The Head of Leisure and Cultural Services would sit on the working group and information would be communicated regarding issues that were arising. The consultation questions were an important element of the review and the group's input would be vital to these questions. A draft timetable had been drawn up which included the deadlines for the working group; this would be communicated after the meeting. It was agreed that the members of the working group and Officers would meet before the review began.

The Chair of the Committee considered it would be helpful if the community centres were advised of the working group and informed they could communicate any of their concerns to the group. Officers assured the Committee that decisions had not been made in advance.

**RESOLVED:** (a) That the information be received.

(b) That a Member working group be set up to shadow the Officer review group.

## 5. **WORK PLANS FOR THE OVERVIEW & SCRUTINY COMMITTEES AND THE HEALTH SCRUTINY COMMITTEE**

The Chairs of the scrutiny committees provided updates on their committee's work by reference to the work plan and provided further information on scrutiny topics as necessary.

The Chair of the Active and Cohesive Communities scrutiny committee provided an update on the work plan. The Chair had still not received requested information from Officers regarding Coalfield Alliance funding. The Committee had received the Bateswood Local Nature Reserve working party recommendations and had agreed they should be forwarded to Cabinet for their consideration. The Committee were awaiting an outline business case from the Head of Leisure and Cultural Services for Leisure Trust Options. An update from Officers had been requested for the Allotments Service Review. Mixed news had been received regarding Kidsgrove Sports Centre; the centre was soon to be re-opened, but further closures in the next twelve months could not be ruled out. At its last meeting, the Committee had discussed local sporting achievements and the possible establishment of a School of Sports. The next meeting of the committee was confirmed as 13 December 2012.

The vice-Chair of the Cleaner, Greener and Safer Communities scrutiny committee provided an update on the work plan. The Waste and Recycling Strategy would involve looking at contracts many years ahead and would require a working group. The move of Fenton Magistrates Courts had been considered by the Committee on 5 September. The courts sent a letter in place of attending the meeting, which advised that CCTV would cover the court building and civil cases would be heard at Stafford Magistrates Court with criminal cases to be heard at Newcastle. Further meetings with the courts would be required. The Chair questioned whether town centre retail premises had been spoken to regarding the move. This had not been raised but was

considered a valid point. The next meeting of the committee was confirmed as 5 December 2012.

The Chair of the Economic Development and Enterprise scrutiny committee provided an update on the work plan. The HS2 working group would continue as it was. A small report regarding the Community Infrastructure Levy had been received at the Committee's last meeting on 17 September; there would be a full report at the next meeting. A report regarding Knutton Recreation Centre had been received by Cabinet the previous week. A small working group had been established to consider town centre car parking. The next meeting of the committee was confirmed as 19 December 2012.

The Chair of the Transformation and Resources scrutiny committee provided an update on the work plan. The budget would form the majority of the work for the committee and there would be a new approach to the budget setting process. A budget café would take place in January 2013 which would give Members the opportunity to ask questions of Cabinet and Officers. A meeting of the committee specifically for the budget took place on 30 October. The Chair of the Member Development Panel raised the issue of Member's liability and whether a risk assessment of Members was required. It was questioned whether this fall under the remit of Transformation and Resources or the Member Development Panel. There was not yet a brief for the work; the Chairs of the two committees would discuss the issue. The Constitution working group would be looking at new areas of the Constitution such as the saying of prayers at Full Council. Members noted on the work plan that Kidsgrove One Stop Shop staff would benefit from a basic local knowledge of Kidsgrove, and advised there had been a similar problem in Loggerheads, with a small reference book being produced. A copy would be made available to the Chair. The figures for Jubilee 2 were noted by Members; the Head of Leisure and Cultural Services confirmed J2 was performing ahead of its business plan and Members considered its income was over budget and its performance satisfactory. The modernisation of the Post Office network was a new addition to the Committee's work plan and would consider the modernisation and transformation of the network and the possibility of partnership working.

The Chair of the Health Scrutiny committee provided an update on the work plan. The Committee's serious concerns regarding the consultation on the mental health service had been presented to the County Council. A joint visit to the new Accident and Emergency Unit at the University Hospital of North Staffordshire may take place in November. Cardiac rehabilitation at Jubilee 2 was going well and had been implemented before funding was received. The Health and Well Being Strategy had been received in draft form by Cabinet; it was on the Council website and would be considered at the committee's next meeting. The Council was now represented on the Health and Well Being Board by the North Staffordshire representative Frank Finlay, of Stafford Borough Council. The Chair of the Member Development Panel had attended the board as part of Link, and suggested a third representative for the County might be considered, as North Staffordshire was not being represented well enough. A response had been received from the Staffordshire cluster of Primary Care Trusts which had answered all concerns regarding phlebotomy services; the scrutiny topic was considered complete. Infant mortality remained a concern and the Committee were monitoring the issue seriously. An accountability session with the UHNS would take place in October.

The Chairs of the committees confirmed that Cabinet members were being invited to meetings. The Chair raised the question as to whether more meetings for Overview and Scrutiny Committees were required in 2013. Members considered whether there

would be adequate Officer resource available, and the need for additional meetings would be dependant upon the issues that were being considered at the time.

**RESOLVED:** That the information be received.

6. **FORWARD PLAN**

The Committee considered the Council's Forward Plan of Key Decisions in order to identify any items listed within it which may be considered as a scrutiny topic by the scrutiny committees. The Chair reminded Members that items on the Forward Plan did not necessarily need to be scrutinised.

**RESOLVED:** That the information be received.

7. **URGENT BUSINESS**

There was no urgent business considered.

**COUNCILLOR MRS ELIZABETH SHENTON**  
**Chair**