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**ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT AND ENTERPRISE OVERVIEW
AND SCRUTINY COMMITTEE**

23 June 2011

Present:- Councillor M Olszewski in the Chair

Councillors Mrs Beech, Boden, D. Clarke, Gilmore, Loades, Miss S. Olszewski, Slater, K N Taylor and Wilkes

Apologies were received from Councillors Holland and Richards

128. * **MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING**

Resolved: That the minutes of the meeting held on 16 February 2011 be agreed as a correct record.

129. * **NEWCASTLE-UNDER-LYME BOROUGH COUNCIL SCRUTINY PEER REVIEW**

Consideration was given to a report on the Scrutiny arrangements of the Council. All of the Scrutiny Committees had received the report and had commented on the Peer Group's recommendations. As agreed by the Transformation and Resources Overview and Scrutiny Committee at its meeting on 20 June 2011 all Members would be receiving a questionnaire to ensure they are fully involved in the process.

Members did not wish to see the disbanding of the Health Scrutiny Committee and felt it should remain in its present form.

The role of Vice Chair should be retained and also be given a greater role.

It was agreed that the four Scrutiny Committees worked well with the thirteen Members and should be kept in their present format but with more Task and Finish Groups being set up to scrutinise various areas.

This Committee recommended the following:

- (i) That the Health Scrutiny Committee remain in its present form.
- (ii) There was no support for the reconsidering of the Vice Chair's role.
- (iii) The size of the Scrutiny Committees should be kept at thirteen Members.
- (iv) The four Overview and Scrutiny Committees should be retained with the addition of more task and finish groups.

Resolved:- (a) That the information be received and the comments noted.

(b) That the recommendations of this Committee be passed to the Overview and Scrutiny Co-ordinating Committee.

130. * **WORK PROGRAMME – PLANNING AND PROGRESS**

Consideration was given to a report advising Members of items included in the Work Programme which could form part of this Committee's Work Programme for the current Municipal Year.

Members queried the Work Programme for last year and how they could be made aware of decisions/outcomes of the scrutiny that took place. A report would be brought back to update Members on these issues.

The Council's Executive Director for Regeneration and Development advised Members that an Economic Development Strategy was to be produced this year and it would be useful for this Committee to be involved in this from the early stages. Several task and finish groups could be set up to look at individual issues.

Members requested that a report be brought to the next meeting of this Committee explaining the Economic Development Strategy in order that they could then identify areas for scrutiny.

- Resolved:-**
- (a) That the information be received.
 - (b) That reports on the Economic Development Strategy and the Community Infrastructure Levy be brought to the next meeting of this Committee.

131. * **FORWARD PLAN**

Consideration was given to a report identifying items listed in the Forward Plan which were relevant to this Committee.

Members agreed that a more advanced Forward Plan should be prepared as the current version did not give much time for Scrutiny.

- Resolved:-**
- (a) That the information be received.
 - (b) That a more advanced Forward Plan be prepared.

M OLSZEWSKI
Chair