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OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY CO-ORDINATING COMMITTEE

4 July 2011

Present:- Councillor Clarke in the Chair

Councillors Becket, Boden, Clarke M, Cooper, Gilmore, Mrs Hailstones, Mrs Heames, Olszewski, Wilkes and Williams

Apologies for absence were received from Councillor Mrs. Shenton and Councillor Snell

144. * **MINUTES OF THE LAST MEETING (15/3/11)**

Resolved:- The minutes of the previous meeting held on 15 March 2011 be approved as a true and correct record of the proceedings.

145. * **OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY CO-ORDINATING COMMITTEE ROLE AND FUNCTION**

The role and function and terms of reference of the Committee was discussed. It was understood that scrutiny had improved over time but could do better as outlined in the peer review. Some scrutiny work had been very useful such as the Waste Recycling Task and Finish work. It was clear that communication between the Cabinet and Chair could be improved and there was a need to focus on proactive consideration of issues. Scrutiny Committees need to use the Forward Plan to act as a critical friend to Cabinet. It was felt that the thematic organisation was preferable and that Health Scrutiny was important, but what was key was to prioritise outcomes for the public.

Resolved:- That the information be received.

146. * **ACTIVITIES OF THE OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY COMMITTEES AND THE HEALTH SCRUTINY SUB-COMMITTEE**

The Committee received verbal updates from the Chairs of the Overview and Scrutiny Committees and the Health Scrutiny Sub-committee.

Resolved:- That the information be received.

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

The Committee discussed the Scrutiny Peer Review and gave initial responses to the recommendations of the review.

Resolved:- That the Committee's views be noted.

148. * **THE FORWARD PLAN OF KEY DECISIONS – JULY TO OCTOBER 2011**

The Committee received the information and identified the Council's Economic Development Strategy as a key piece of work for the Economic Development and Enterprise Overview and Scrutiny Committee and the Town Centre Public Realm as a possible area of scrutiny. The Chair was asked to discuss the Bateswood Nature Reserve Review with the Cabinet (in particular the issue of consultation) and the Vice Chair was asked to discuss the policies on Affordable Rent and Strategic Tenancy with the Head of Housing Services. It was considered that the High Speed Rail Link was a matter which could be left to a later time.

Resolved:- That the information be received and the identified proposals be examined.

M R CLARKE
Chair