

*Printed for information

**TRANSFORMATION AND RESOURCES
OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY COMMITTEE**

20 June 2011

Present:- Councillor Mrs Shenton in the Chair

Councillors Mrs Beech, Mrs Burke, Mrs Burnett, Fear, Mrs Hailstones, Snell, Taylor J, Waring and Wilkes

Apologies were received from Councillors Howells and Sinnott

117. * **MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING**

Resolved:- That the minutes of the meeting held on 1 March 2011 be agreed as a correct record.

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

Consideration was given to a report showing the latest version of the Committee's Work Programme for the current municipal year.

The Committee of the previous municipal year had requested further scrutiny of the Council's Constitution.

Members agreed that the Constitution should form part of their Work Programme together with the following:-

- Budget
- Efficiency savings and financial monitoring
- Customer Services (front line)
- Management of land and property assets

It was agreed that smaller working groups would be beneficial to look at some of the areas.

With regard to Customer Services and its vast area, Members requested a presentation on its services which could guide the Committee as to which areas to scrutinise.

Members queried what impact past efficiency savings had had on the Council.

Resolved:- That the information be received.

119. * **THE FORWARD PLAN – TRANSFORMATION AND RESOURCES
COMMITTEE EXTRACTS FOR THE PERIOD MARCH 2011 TO JUNE 2011**

Consideration was given to a report identifying areas in the current issue of the Forward Plan of Key Decisions covering the period March 2011 to June 2011.

The only issue identified to date was the Finance and Performance Management Monitoring Report.

Resolved:- That the item contained in the Forward Plan be noted.

120. * **FINANCIAL AND PERFORMANCE MONITORING TO END OF QUARTER 4 – MARCH 2011**

Consideration was given to a report covering the budget and performance levels of the Council to the end of the Fourth Quarter (March 2011).

The report had been taken to Cabinet on 15 June 2011.

Members queried the investment counterparties. £1,412,768 had been received from the Administrators for Heritable Bank which accounted for 56% of the £2.5 million investment and another payment was due next month. It was anticipated that over twelve months, the majority could be recovered.

Members queried the collection of certain data i.e. visits to museums. It was reported that the information did not need to be collected as the National Indicators no longer existed.

Members requested the following information:

- (i) A breakdown of the facilities offered by the Council and their usage, in particular the reduction in usage to see if it related to a specific facility or across the board.
- (ii) The number of people accessing the Council's facilities.
- (iii) The number of people using the Council's facilities as part of the GP Referral Scheme.

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

(b) That the following information be forwarded to

Members:

- (i) Breakdown of facilities offered and the reduction in usage.
- (ii) The number of people accessing the Council's facilities.
- (iii) The number of people using the Council's facilities as part of the Council's GP Referral Scheme.

121. * **NEWCASTLE-UNDER-LYME BOROUGH COUNCIL SCRUTINY PEER REVIEW – APRIL 2011**

Consideration was given to a report which had been prepared by a team of officer and Member peers to complete review of the Council's scrutiny arrangements.

Members considered the recommendations and suggested that they be sent out as a questionnaire to all Members for their comments.

A working group of Members and officers could be set up to scrutinise the results and what would work best at Newcastle.

The results of the questionnaire would then go to the Overview and Scrutiny Co-ordinating Committee.

Transformation & Resources Overview & Scrutiny – 20/06/11

- Resolved:-**
- (a) That the information be received.
 - (b) That a questionnaire comprising the recommendations of the Peer Review be sent to all Members.

MRS E SHENTON
Chair