

SCRUTINY MANAGEMENT PANEL

Minutes of the meeting of the Scrutiny Management Panel held on Friday, 29 September 2017 at 3.00 pm in Conference Room A, Civic Offices, Portsmouth.

Present

Councillor Scott Harris (in the Chair)

Councillors Ian Lyon
 Ben Dowling
 Steve Hastings
 Stephen Morgan
 Darren Sanders

14. Apologies for Absence (AI 1)

Apologies for absence were received on behalf of Councillors Colin Galloway and Tom Wood and Gemma New. Councillor Alicia Denny attended as standing deputy for Councillor New.

Councillors Stephen Morgan MP and Ben Dowling sent apologies for lateness.

15. Declarations of Members' Interests (AI 2)

There were no declarations of members' interests.

16. Minutes of the Meeting held on 26 July 2017 (AI 3)

It was proposed by Councillor Scott Harris and seconded by Councillor Steve Hastings that the minutes of the meeting held on 26 July 2017 be confirmed and signed by the chair as a correct record subject to an amendment to the last paragraph on page 6.

This was agreed.

RESOLVED that the minutes of the meeting held on 26 July 2017 be confirmed and signed by the Chair as a correct record subject to the addition of the following wording after the last paragraph on page 6

"Councillor Harris said that the matter had been further delayed because a General Election was called and it was decided that the meeting should not be held during the purdah period"

17. Work Programme 2017/18 for the themed scrutiny panels (AI 4)

(TAKE IN HANDOUT)

The Chair introduced this item explaining that the individual themed panels had met to consider possible review topics and had been assisted by officers.

Economic Development, Culture & Leisure Scrutiny Panel Review Topics

The panel first looked at the items put forward for consideration by the Economic Development, Culture & Leisure Scrutiny Panel from their meeting held on 15 September. Following discussion members of Scrutiny Management Panel considered that a review on the Port was likely to take up all the remaining time in this municipal year to complete. Members were interested in the exact scope of the review as the paragraph that had been provided lacked sufficient detail for the panel to discern exactly what was envisaged. They asked that the chair of the EDCL Scrutiny Panel should provide more detail about the scope of the review through the chair of Scrutiny Management Panel, Councillor Harris.

The panel confirmed however that this should be the topic reviewed and the panel was also advised that the director of the Port fully supported the review.

The panel did not approve the other two topics that had been submitted for review at this stage.

ACTION: The Chair of EDCL be asked to contact Councillor Harris with more detail about the scope for the review.

Education, Children & Young Persons' Scrutiny Panel (ECYP)

The ECYP Scrutiny Panel met on 11 July and agreed the topics they wished to put forward to the Scrutiny Management Panel.

Following discussion members of Scrutiny Management Panel considered that both the topics put forward were worthy of review and approved them in the order in which they were submitted. The panel was particularly supportive of the ECYP's intention to consider home schooling and those children on part time timetables.

Housing & Social Care Scrutiny Panel (HSC)

Councillor Sanders was invited to provide the background to the topic "Housing Need and Empty Properties in Portsmouth and the Impact of Government Policy". Councillor Sanders explained that the backbone of the report was to consider the impact of government policy relating to housing need and empty properties in Portsmouth but that the legislation that had been anticipated was no longer expected to proceed for a number of reasons. These included the recent snap general election which resulted in a change to

the priorities of the government's legislative programme. Councillor Sanders explained that at the meeting of the Housing & Social Care Scrutiny Panel, officers had advised that they did not know whether any or all of the policies outlined in the housing white paper earlier in 2017 would now be implemented. As the white paper formed the backbone of government policy during the review period officers advised that in their opinion the review could not come to any meaningful conclusions as it was not possible to know what impact government policy would now have. Officers further advised that they could not offer any date as to when government would be able to offer any clarity about the future or otherwise of the proposed legislation. Councillor Sanders said that in the circumstances the Housing & Social Care Scrutiny Panel had taken a collective decision to suspend the review indefinitely. Councillor Sanders also advised that consideration had been given by the H&SC Scrutiny Panel concerning whether a paper on housing need could be presented to Cabinet. However the other panel members present agreed unanimously that any such paper would not have any meaning as it would not fulfil the terms of the review.

Councillor Sanders advised that an item would appear at regular intervals on agendas of the Housing & Social Care Scrutiny Panel to consider whether or not it was yet appropriate to resume the review.

The Scrutiny Management Panel agreed with this approach and then considered the topics that had been put forward by the Housing & Social Care Scrutiny Panel. The first topic was the provision of learning and disability accommodation.

Following discussion the Scrutiny Management Panel considered this topic to be a worthwhile review to undertake but said that the title of the review should be changed to give a clearer indication of what the review was about.

The panel also agreed that the provision of domiciliary care was also a worthwhile topic.

With regard to the Housing & Social Care Scrutiny Panel's recommendation that Scrutiny Management Panel urgently reviews the outcomes of the recommendations made by the review into "Hospital Discharge Arrangements in Portsmouth" undertaken in 2013/14, members of the Scrutiny Management Panel discussed this in some detail. Councillor Denny said that this matter was regularly on agendas for the Health Overview Scrutiny Panel (HOSP) but that the number of patients who were fit for discharge but were subject to delays did not seem to be improving by very much or very quickly. The panel agreed that the outcomes and implementation of the recommendations made in the Hospital Discharge Arrangements in Portsmouth review should be looked at and asked that a report be brought to the next meeting of the panel.

ACTION: Officers to be contacted to provide a report as requested. The panel asked that the report be in the format used by Bruce Marr when providing the panel with an update concerning Domestic Abuse at the meeting in April 2017 with the appendix in the same format.

The Scrutiny Management Panel also decided that the Economic Development, Culture & Leisure Scrutiny Panel's recent review into high streets should also be brought to Scrutiny Management Panel for an update at a later date.

Transport, Environment & Community Safety Scrutiny Panel (TECS)

Councillor Stephen Hastings, chair of TECS advised the Scrutiny Management Panel that much work is being done by the panel on their review into "General Parking Issues in Portsmouth with a view to considering Alternative Strategies". Councillor Hastings provided an update stating that a workshop for interested parties had been held and results from that were being collated. In addition a survey was underway and the panel would be collating the results and acting on the information they had been given following consultation. He advised that the topic was likely to take up the panel's time for the rest of the municipal year.

RESOLVED that the Scrutiny Management Panel

- (1) Noted that the TECS scrutiny panel will continue with its review of general parking issues in Portsmouth with a view to considering alternative strategies;**
- (2) Determined the work programme for the remainder of the municipal year for each of the remaining three themed scrutiny panels as set out below.**
 - (a) Economic Development, Culture & Leisure Scrutiny Panel**
 - The Port - scope to be agreed.**
 - (b) Education, Children & Young People's Scrutiny Panel**
 - School Attendance and Part Time Timetables**
 - The Council's Offer to Vulnerable Adolescence**
 - (c) Housing & Social Care**
 - Provision of Learning and Disability Accommodation - title and scope to be agreed**
 - Provision of Domiciliary Care**
- (3) Agreed the request from the Housing & Social Care Scrutiny Panel members to review as a matter of urgency the outcomes of the recommendations made by the review into "Hospital Discharge Arrangements in Portsmouth" undertaken in 2013/14.**

The meeting concluded at 3.50 pm.

Councillor Scott Harris
Chair