

SCRUTINY MANAGEMENT PANEL

MINUTES OF THE MEETING of the Scrutiny Management Panel held on 1 July at 10.30 am in the Executive Meeting Room, Floor 3, The Guildhall, Portsmouth.

(NB: These minutes should be read in conjunction with the agenda for the meeting, which can be viewed at www.portsmouth.gov.uk)

Present

Councillors Cheryl Buggy (Chair)
Lynne Stagg (until 11:52)
Rob Wood
Jim Patey
Mike Park
James Williams
Peter Eddis (from 10:55)

Officers

Stewart Agland, Local Democracy Manager
Anthony Quinn, Senior Local Democracy Officer

16 Apologies for Absence (AI 1)

Apologies for absence were received from Councillor Caroline Scott and Louise Wilders, head of customer, community and democratic services for non attendance and Councillor Peter Eddis for late arrival.

17 Declarations of interest (AI 2)

Councillor Park declared a personal non-prejudicial interest in agenda item 8 as he is a Portsmouth City Council allotment user.

18 Minutes from the Meeting of 8 March 2010 (AI3)

RESOLVED that the minutes of the Scrutiny Management Panel meeting held on 8 March 2010 be confirmed and signed as a correct record.

19 Forward Plan (AI 4)

The panel considered the topics on the Forward Plan for the forthcoming four month period, however, they felt that the information was too limited to give them any indication whether the topic should be considered for pre-decision scrutiny.

RESOLVED that the officers endeavour to produce a Forward Plan template with sufficient information on forthcoming proposed cabinet items, to enable Scrutiny Management panel to take an informed judgement on what it would like to consider with a view to pre-decision scrutiny. The Forward Plan template will also need to identify the timely intervention point.

20 Finance & Resources Scrutiny (AI 5)

Following a recommendation from Standards Committee, it was agreed at Full Council on 15 June 2010, (minute number 61 refers) that the responsibilities of the Finance & Resources Scrutiny Panel be subsumed by the Scrutiny Management Panel. Having assumed responsibility for the work programme of this panel, SMP agreed to revisit the project brief having firstly undertaken a gap analysis, in order to establish which parts of the review require broader coverage. Following completion of this exercise, the role of the themed panels in taking forward this review will be determined.

RESOLVED that a gap analysis of the content and breadth of the report to date be conducted and a revised project brief be developed and agreed at the meeting.

21 Notice of Motion from Full Council (AI 6)

The panel accepted the Notice of Motion referred from Full Council on 23 March 2010. Due to the purdah period, this is the first meeting of SMP this municipal year, therefore the three month rule cannot be complied with. The panel have asked that a brief report be submitted to their meeting on 29 July to determine the viability of screening council meetings.

RESOLVED that the head of customer, community and democratic services bring a report to the meeting of SMP scheduled for 29 July outlining the viability of screening council meetings, including the budgetary impact, technical feasibility and benchmarking of other local authorities who provide this service.

RESOLVED that the Chair write to the City Solicitor for inclusion at the next Constitution Working Group, asking them to re-consider the three-month time-frame for responding to Notices of Motion and the potential impact this has on existing scrutiny work programmes.

22 Current Scrutiny Reviews (AI 7)

The panel were given an update on the status of all scrutiny reviews that have been carried over from the previous municipal year. As the over-arching panel for scrutiny, it was agreed that all completed reviews be submitted to SMP prior to being forwarded to cabinet for consideration.

RESOLVED that all draft scrutiny reports be forwarded to SMP for comment prior to submission to cabinet for consideration.

23 Work programme 2010/11 (AI 8)

Councillor Park declared a personal non-prejudicial interest in this item as he is an allotment holder on one of Portsmouth City Council's allotment sites.

The suggested work programme topics for 2010/11 together with the outstanding topics on the work programme from the previous municipal year were considered. The panels were tasked with completing the outstanding

work already underway.

Economic Development, Culture & Leisure – continuing their review into Properties Under the Culture Portfolio and focussing their attention on establishing a template to help the panel understand how these buildings are maintained and funded.

Education, Children & Young People – completing their review into Protection of Vulnerable Children and will submit their report to SMP for comment ahead of submission to cabinet.

Traffic, Environment & Community Safety – no topics currently in progress. The panel suggested that TECS conduct a desktop scrutiny review of how other local authorities implement their enforcement and policy in relation to allotments and compare this with the current PCC policy and enforcement of allotments. Another suggestion for scrutiny is the enforcement of the 20 mph speed limit in Portsmouth, however, it was agreed that this matter should be deferred until the Association of Chief Police Officers (ACPO) determine whether they are in support of nationally enforcing this speed limit at their conference later this year.

Housing & Social Care – completing their review into Housing Allocation, including Mental Health Provision and will submit their report to SMP for comment ahead of submission to cabinet.

Finance & Resources – this panel has been subsumed within SMP who will continue the work programme for F&R and finalise the scrutiny report into the Use of Consultants.

Health, Overview & Scrutiny Panel – currently one on nine authorities involved as part of a Centre for Public Scrutiny development area project, concentrating on a review into, “Alcohol Related Hospital Admissions”. The review is due to report in mid November and will help to develop a national framework and toolkit for engaging in effective scrutiny.

The SMP will also consider a report at their meeting on 29 July regarding comparison of Portsmouth City Council’s approach to scrutiny against scrutiny models adopted by other authorities, including, how they are resourced, public participation in scrutiny review topic selection, effectiveness of pre-decision scrutiny and call-in.

RESOLVED that the Senior Local Democracy Officer would bring a report to the 29 July meeting highlighting examples of scrutiny good practice, including effective participation by the public in scrutiny and work programme setting to enable an informed debate to be had on the way forward for scrutiny in Portsmouth.

The panel were presented with an e-mail submitted to the Leader of the Council from a local resident who was enquiring into the organisational response to the massive power failure across the south of Portsmouth on 26 June. In particular, the impact this had on the city and the lead up to the power failure to determine if it was preventable.

RESOLVED that the Civil Contingencies Manager brings a report to the

meeting on 29 July outlining the roles and responsibilities of Portsmouth City Council in respect of the extent of the incident and the organisational response to it.

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Schedule of meetings (AI 9)

The panel agreed that they would meet on Thursday 29th July at 9 am, and provisionally on Wednesday 15th September at 9 am and Thursday 4th November at 9 am, all meetings to be held in the Executive Meeting Room, 3rd floor, The Guildhall

Meeting concluded at 12.05 p.m.

Chairman.....

AQ
07/07/10