

SCRUTINY MANAGEMENT PANEL

MINUTES OF THE MEETING of the Scrutiny Management Panel held on 4 November 2010 at 9.00 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)
Rob Wood
Mike Park (from 9.02 hrs)
Jim Patey (till 10.25 hrs)
James Williams (till 10.10 hrs)

Officers

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

44 Apologies for Absence (AI 1)

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors Caroline Scott and Lynne Stagg

45 Declarations of interest (AI 2)

There were no declarations of interest

46 Minutes from the Meeting of 15 September 2010 (AI3)

RESOLVED that the minutes of the Scrutiny Management Panel meeting held on 15 September 2010 be confirmed and signed as a correct record.

47 Pre-decision scrutiny (AI 4)

The Local Democracy Manager presented his report to the panel together with a composite of the Forward Plan over the previous 12 months, which was distributed to members at the meeting.

[TAKE IN REPORT]

The panel agreed that whilst the Forward Plan was one way of identifying potential topics for pre-decision scrutiny, it was considered more effective to identify officers of the council, to attend a future scrutiny meeting to inform the panel of their work priorities for the coming months, in order that the panel could determine where it would be most effective to scrutinise. Consequently, the panel agreed to invite the Strategic Director for Children's Services and Strategic Director for Regeneration to their next meeting.

The panel also expressed their desire to see the Forward Plan being as informative as possible, to enhance this process.

The scrutiny management panel agreed that the panel needs to be; more rigorous, provide explicit instructions to the scrutiny panels when undertaking scrutiny topics, produce thorough project brief to ensure strong accountability, focus on significant issues, be pro-active rather than re-active, involve outside bodies where appropriate and adopt a holistic approach.

RESOLVED the Strategic Director for Children’s Services and Strategic Director for Regeneration attend the next formal meeting of the panel to inform them of their services future plans to assist the panel in identifying potential areas for pre-decision scrutiny.

The panel also felt there would be value in exploring the option of Heads of Service taking the lead on certain appropriate scrutiny reviews that do not involve their own particular service area and have tasked the Head of Customer, Community and Democratic Services with establishing a protocol with her peers in respect of the best way to achieve this.

RESOLVED that the Head of Customer, Community & Democratic Services determines a pragmatic approach to involving Heads of Service with taking the lead on appropriate scrutiny reviews outside of their service area.

48 Work Programme (AI 5)

The panel reviewed the residual work programme and identified what areas still remain priorities. Consequently, the work programme has been updated to reflect these changes.

The panel heard that there are significant challenges within health scrutiny at present, as many areas of health scrutiny are of high priority, with the potential to significantly impact across the city. Consequently, SMP discussed what the other relevant panels could do to assist the Health, Overview & Scrutiny Panel (HOSP) to effectively manage these priorities. The SMP have requested that HOSP identify key areas that broadly align with the scrutiny areas for Traffic, Environment & Community Safety (TECS) Housing & Social Care (H&SC) and Education, Children & Young People (ECYP) in order that they can scrutinise an area on behalf of and report back through the HOSP.

RESOLVED that whilst retaining the statutory powers under the Health & Social Care Act, the Health, Overview & Scrutiny Panel will identify key areas of health scrutiny for TECS, H&SC and ECYP to scrutinise on their behalf and report back to HOSP.

49 Date of next meeting (AI6)

Next formal meeting is scheduled to be held on Thursday 16th December 2010 at 9 a.m. in Meeting Room 1, 3rd Floor, The Guildhall

Meeting concluded at 10.42 a.m.

Chairman.....

AQ
8/11/10