

**OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY MANAGEMENT BOARD**  
**26th July, 2013**

Present:- Councillor Whelbourn (in the Chair); Councillors Gilding, G. A. Russell, Sims and Steele.

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors Beck, Currie, Dalton, Falvey and Read.

**38. FORMER COUNCILLOR F. WRIGHT**

Members stood in silence as a mark of respect for former Councillor Fred Wright who had died recently. Former Councillor Wright had been Mayor of Rotherham in the 2004/05 Municipal Year and also Chair of the Council's scrutiny function.

**39. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

There were no declarations of interest made at this meeting.

**40. QUESTIONS FROM MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC AND THE PRESS**

There were no questions from members of the public or the press.

**41. CORPORATE PRIORITIES**

Further to Minute No. 36 of the meeting of the Overview and Scrutiny Management Board held on 12<sup>th</sup> July, 2013 and Minute No. 54 of the meeting of the Cabinet held on 24<sup>th</sup> July, 2013, consideration was given to a report presented by the Policy and Partnerships Manager concerning the Council's refreshed draft corporate priorities. The report included the more detailed key commitments which form the draft "plan on a page"; and also sets out the rationale for arriving at these priorities and provided a timetable for final approval and dissemination to Council staff and to the Council's partner organisations. The four corporate priorities are:-

: stimulating the local economy and helping local people into work;

: protecting the most vulnerable people and families, enabling them to maximise their independence;

: ensuring all areas of Rotherham are safe, clean and well maintained;

: helping people to improve their health and wellbeing and reducing inequalities within the Borough area.

Members were informed of the following budget principles which will enable the Council to operate effectively within the funding available:-

- focus and deliver on business and jobs growth;
- help people to help themselves wherever possible;
- provide early support to prevent needs becoming more serious;
- continue strong financial management and governance and tight control on spending.

The report stated that the revised corporate priorities must reflect the new financial reality and provide a framework for the Council, working with partner organisations, to deliver the best possible outcomes for local people.

Members' subsequent debate included the following salient issues:-

- : job creation within the Borough area and the security of employment (Members asked to be provided with statistics for the last two years);
- : the performance framework which enables the Council to monitor performance in respect of these corporate priorities;
- : the impact of the coalition Government's welfare reforms upon inequalities within the Rotherham Borough area;
- : procurement by the Council of goods and services from local suppliers;
- : the budget in respect of the Council's responsibility for public health services;
- : the need for Council service plans to reflect the four priorities;

Resolved:- (1) That the report be received and its contents noted.

(2) That the views now expressed by the Overview and Scrutiny Management Board be forwarded to the Cabinet, to assist the further development and discussion about the corporate priorities.

(3) That it be noted that further work should take place to identify the outcomes the Council wishes to achieve and to ensure that the corporate plan reflects the need for a new approach to meet the challenges facing the Council.

(4) That it be noted that a final version of the corporate priorities and plan will be submitted to the Cabinet for further discussion and agreement during September, 2013, before submission to the Council for final approval.

(5) That the Self Regulation Select Commission be asked to consider the various Council service plans and the way in which they may help to deliver the corporate priorities, prior to the four corporate priorities being considered at the Council meeting to be held on 23<sup>rd</sup> October, 2013.

**42. SCRUTINY REVIEWS - MONITORING ARRANGEMENTS**

Consideration was given to a report, presented by the Scrutiny Manager, providing an overview of scrutiny review activity to determine which pieces of work require continued monitoring and which ones are concluded, or are in need of refreshing in the light of changing circumstances. The submitted report contained an outline of previous reviews focussing on activity from 2010 onwards and proposed some arrangements for the monitoring of the implementation of scrutiny reviews.

Appended to the report was a list of all scrutiny reviews currently taking place and which are detailed in the 2012/13 Scrutiny Annual Report.

Resolved:- (1) That the report be received and its contents noted.

(2) That the various recommendations relating to all of the scrutiny reviews currently taking place, as detailed in the appendix to the report now submitted, be approved, subject to the inclusion of a further recommendation that all Members of the Council shall receive annual refresher training in the role of corporate parent for looked after children.

(3) That the following principles be adopted within the scrutiny work programme, to facilitate the monitoring of scrutiny reviews:-

(a) all new scrutiny reviews shall be monitored by their lead Select Commission or by the Overview and Scrutiny Management Board;

(b) upon receipt of a Cabinet response to a scrutiny review, by the Overview and Scrutiny Management Board, the monitoring arrangements shall be agreed at that time;

(c) all new scrutiny reviews shall be reviewed at the most six months after completion and sooner if circumstances so necessitate (for example: if there are a number of recommendations in the response to a review with earlier deadlines for action);

(d) further to (c) above, all subsequent monitoring reports shall be submitted at intervals of twelve months, unless there are specific concerns or actions requiring more frequent monitoring (this arrangement shall be agreed with the lead officer for the scrutiny review);

(e) whenever a scrutiny review is deemed to be completed, its closure shall be noted by the Overview and Scrutiny Management Board.

**43. OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY MANAGEMENT BOARD'S WORK PROGRAMME**

Further to Minute No. 21 of the meeting of the Overview and Scrutiny Management Board held on 28<sup>th</sup> June, 2013, consideration was given to a report presented by the Scrutiny Manager containing a suggested

provisional timetable for the work programme of the Overview and Scrutiny Management Board for 2013/14 and providing further clarification on some of the proposed work areas. The suggested work programme was appended to the submitted report.

Resolved:- (1) That the report be received and its contents noted.

(2) That the scrutiny work programme of the Overview and Scrutiny Management Board for the 2013/2014 Municipal Year and the programme's timetable, as now submitted, be approved.

#### **44. YOUTH CABINET/YOUNG PEOPLE'S ISSUES**

There were no issues to report.

#### **45. MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING HELD ON 12TH JULY, 2013**

Resolved:- That the minutes of the previous meeting of the Overview and Scrutiny Management Board, held on 12th July, 2013, be approved as a correct record for signature by the Chairman.

#### **46. WORK IN PROGRESS**

##### **Health Select Commission:-**

The Chair reported on the recent activities of the Health Select Commission:-

: a spotlight review of Carers' support will begin during September 2013, together with representatives of the Improving Lives Select Commission;

: further discussion of the Clinical Commissioning Group's review of Urgent Care services (the Select Commission has decided to oppose the review's proposals).

##### **Improving Lives Select Commission:-**

The Chair reported on the recent activities of the Improving Lives Select Commission:-

: participation in the forthcoming spotlight review of carers' support.

##### **Improving Places Select Commission:-**

The Vice-Chair reported on the recent activities of the Improving Places Select Commission:-

: consideration of the review and proposed revisions to the Council's Housing Allocations Policy;

: the scrutiny review of homelessness has begun.

**Overview and Scrutiny Management Board:-**

The Chair reported on the recent activities of the Overview and Scrutiny Management Board:-

: progress will be made in accordance with the agreed work programme 2013/2014.

**47. CALL-IN ISSUES**

There were no formal call-in requests.