

MINUTES OF A MEETING OF THE OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY BOARD HELD ON 2nd SEPTEMBER 2009

Present:

Members of the Group:

Councillors: John Appleton
Les Caborn
Michael Doody
Jerry Roodhouse
John Ross
Dave Shilton

Martin Davis (North Warwickshire Borough Council)
Bill Gifford (Warwick District Council)
Valerie Hobbs (Stratford-on-Avon District Council)
Chris Holman (Rugby Borough Council)
Tony Lloyd (Nuneaton and Bedworth Borough Council)
Janet Smith (NHS Warwickshire)

Also present Councillors Mike Gittus and Bob Stevens

Officers: David Carter, Strategic Director Customers, Workforce and Governance
Tricia Morrison, Head of Performance
Jane Pollard, Democratic Services Manager
Louise Richard, Policy and Partnerships Co-ordinator
John Wright, Committee Manager

1. General

(1) Apologies

Apologies for absence were received from Councillor Richard Chattaway and Clive Parsons (Warwickshire Police Authority)

(2) Members' Disclosures of Personal and Prejudicial Interests

Councillor John Appleton declared a personal interest in any matter relating to Stratford on Avon District Council as he was a member of that authority.

Councillor Les Caborn declared a personal interest in any matter relating to Warwick District Council as he was a member, portfolio holder and Deputy Leader of that authority.

Councillor Martin Davis declared a personal interest in any matter relating to North Warwickshire Borough Council as he was a member of that authority

Councillor Michael Doody declared a personal interest in any matter relating to Warwick District Council as he was a member and Leader of that authority.

Councillor Bill Gifford declared a personal interest in any matter relating Warwick District Council and to Royal Leamington Spa Town Council as he was a member of those authorities.

Councillor Valerie Hobbs declared a personal interest in any matter relating Stratford on Avon District Council as she was a member of that authority. Councillor Hobbs also declared a personal interest in any matter relating Coventry and Warwickshire Valuation Tribunal and Warwickshire Valuation Tribunal as she was a member of both organisations.

Councillor Chris Holman declared a personal interest in any matter relating Rugby Borough Council as he was a member of that authority.

Councillor Tony Lloyd declared a personal interest in any matter relating Nuneaton and Bedworth Borough Council as he was a member of that authority.

Councillor Jerry Roodhouse declared a personal interest in any matter relating Rugby Borough Council as he was a member of that authority.

Councillor Dave Shilton declared a personal interest in any matter relating to Warwick District Council as he was a member of that authority

(3) Minutes of the meeting of the Overview and Scrutiny Board

Resolved that the minutes of the meeting of the Overview and Scrutiny Board held on 16th July 2009 be agreed as a correct record and signed by the Chair.

(4) Terms of Reference of the Overview and Scrutiny Board

The Strategic Director Customers, Workforce and Governance reminded members of the terms of reference of the Board and explained the different roles that the Board would perform.

Resolved that the terms of reference of the Overview and Scrutiny Board be noted.

2. Proposed Scrutiny Reviews arising from Overview And Scrutiny Committees Work Programme Workshops and Draft Overview And Scrutiny Committee Work Programmes

The Board considered a report on proposed scrutiny reviews arising from overview and scrutiny committees work programme workshops and draft overview and scrutiny committee work programmes

During a detailed discussion the following points were made

- a) Members were of the opinion that the most effective means of carrying out budget scrutiny was to hold a single budget scrutiny day, as had taken place last year with the Chairs, Vice Chairs, and group

spokespersons of each overview and scrutiny committee invited to attend.

- b) The Heath Overview and Scrutiny Committee had established a consultation group to develop responses to formal consultations on significant changes to health services
- c) The Heath Overview and Scrutiny Committee may need to hold a special meeting to respond to consultation on proposed changes of service at Bramcote Community Hospital
- d) The Heath Overview and Scrutiny Committee had considered a report on Improving Access to Health (transport) in Warwickshire. The Health Committee had felt that the report raised issues which should be further examined by a task and finish group. The Board recognised that that some of the issues that were raised in the report impacted on the work of the Economy and Environment Overview and Scrutiny Committee. It was agreed that the Chairs of the two committees would discuss the best way of progressing this matter and if it was still felt necessary to establish a task group the Chairs would propose amendments to the work programme of which ever committee would take the lead
- e) Portfolio holders, not strategic directors, should take responsibility for presenting performance improvement plans to overview and scrutiny committees. Each OSC meeting should have a portfolio holder update item on the Agenda.
- f) There was insufficient information about the emerging issues from the CAA for the Board to take a view at this time. Members noted that
 - o the high mortality rates in Rugby had been referred to the local LSP.
 - o The improvement of existing housing stocks was dependent on central government funding. Housing growth, affordable housing needed to be considered in the context of the Regional Spatial Strategy.
 - o A child obesity review had been carried out in 2007 and progress reviewed April 2009
- g) The Adult and Community Services Overview and Scrutiny Committee had suggested heritage education, countryside parks and Rural Tourism for a single issue select committee type meeting. It was pointed out that a lot of work had been carried out on these issues already and a briefing paper could easily be prepared and circulated to members.
- h) Home care had been reviewed in 2007 and was due to be transferred shortly and therefore it would be appropriate to delay any scrutiny until after that process was complete
- i) Members were of the opinion that a review of alcohol abuse could be a joint scrutiny exercise
- j) Items identified as low priority in the work programmes should be dealt with by way of briefing notes etc if at all possible rather than in committee.

Resolved that

- (1) The report and the draft work programmes be noted;
- (2) The in-depth review work programme as set out in appendix E to the report submitted be approved; and
- (3) A budget scrutiny event be held to allow all overview and scrutiny committees to scrutinise the draft budget proposals

3. LAA Q4 Performance 2008/09 and Q1 performance 2009/10

The Board considered a report on performance information relating to the 1st year of the LAA and information in relation to quarter 1 of the second year.

Members were informed that in quarter 4 of the first year 35% of targets had been exceeded and 29% had not been achieved. In quarter 1 of year 2 only 13% of targets had not been achieved. It was felt that this improvement reflected the bedding down of partnership working. Work was being undertaken to ensure alignment between the County Council's performance management arrangements and partnership performance arrangements. In future areas of under and over performance would be reported to the Board and to LAA block leaders.

Members expressed concern that not enough funding was being made available to reduce the conception rate of under 18s. There was agreement that as the issue involved issues of both health and education the chairs of the respective committees should meet with representatives of the PCT to discuss how the issue could be addressed.

The Board also requested that where performance was reported on the basis on an annual figure quarterly or annual forecast figures should be made available to the Board.

Resolved that the report be noted.

4. Warwickshire Sustainable Communities Strategy

The Board considered a report on the Sustainable Community Strategy which had been considered by the Public Service Board Advisory Forum, agreed by the Public Service Board in June and Cabinet on 9th July. The LAA would be the delivery mechanism for the Strategy.

The report outlined key issues for the partnership which could provide the basis for potential scrutiny topics for 2009/10. Members were of the opinion that the issues identified were cross cutting and therefore in order to avoid duplication with those items already identified for inclusion in the overview and scrutiny work programme none of the issues listed in the report should be selected as specific subjects for scrutiny but instead should be taken in to account whilst other scrutiny reviews were being undertaken.

Resolved that the report be noted

5. Comprehensive Area Assessment and Emerging Issues

The Board considered a report on an overview of the CAA framework, the role of elected members within the framework and some of the emerging issues identified by the Inspectorates to date.

Members were reminded that a report on the role of overview and scrutiny within the CAA regime had been considered by the Board on 8th April 2009.

The Board was informed that formal feedback on the first round of CAA inspections would be given to the PSB on 23rd September 2009. The Council

would have until 13th October to finalise its response. A briefing note on the content of the response would be circulated to members between 13th October and the November meeting of the Board. The formal outcome of the inspection would be published on 10th December 2009. Members noted that the relationship with the lead inspector was positive and a coordinating group which included representatives of District/ Borough Councils and other partners was ensuring that any additional information required by the inspectorate was supplied.

The Board considered a detailed range of issues that were emerging from the inspectorate on area assessments, organisational assessments and managing performance.

Resolved that the CAA framework and the emerging issues for Warwickshire be noted

6. Overview and Scrutiny Board Work Programme 2009/10

The Board considered it's work programme for the forthcoming year

Resolved that the report be noted

7. Any Other Business

None

8. Date of Next Meeting

The Board noted that their next meeting would be held on 4th November 2009 at 2.00 p.m.

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Chair

The Board rose at 3.45p.m.