

**THE OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY COMMITTEE**

**1 June 2011**

Attendance:

Councillors:

Chamberlain (Chairman) (P)

Cook (P)

Gottlieb (P)

Hutchison (P)

Huxtsep (P)

Learney (P)

Pearson (P)

Power (P)

Tait (P)

Thompson (P)

Wright (P)

Others in attendance who did not address the meeting:

Councillors Banister, Godfrey, Hiscock, Humby, Mitchell, Pines and Wood

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1. **CHAIRMAN'S ANNOUNCEMENTS**

The Chairmen reminded the Committee that Overview and Scrutiny Members' Training was to be held on Tuesday 14 June 2011 at 6pm.

2. **APPOINTMENT OF VICE-CHAIRMAN FOR THE 2011/12 MUNICIPAL YEAR**

RESOLVED:

That Councillor Hutchison be appointed Vice-Chairman for the 2011/12 Municipal Year.

3. **FUTURE MEETING DATES AND TIMES**

RESOLVED:

1. That the timetable of meetings for 2011/12 be agreed as set out on the agenda.

2. That meetings of the Committee normally commence at 6.30pm

4. **APPOINTMENT OF SCRUTINY LEADS/CHAIRMAN FOR INFORMAL SCRUTINY GROUPS THE 2011/12 MUNICIPAL YEAR**

RESOLVED:

That the appointment of Councillors Huxstep, Pearson, Wright, Hutchison, Power and Thompson as Scrutiny Leads/Chairman of Informal Scrutiny Groups for the 2011/12 Municipal Year, be approved.

5. **MINUTES**

RESOLVED:

That the minutes of the previous meeting of the Committee held on 7 March 2011 (less exempt items), be approved and adopted.

6. **DRAFT SCRUTINY WORK PROGRAMME**  
([Report OS1 refers](#))

The Corporate Director (Governance) advised that the Treasury Management Stewardship item of business scheduled for 26 September 2011 would now be dealt with by the Audit Committee, to be held that same day.

During discussion, the Chief Executive explained that Principal Scrutiny Committee had been previously asked by Council to monitor proposals coming forward to redevelop the Colebrook Street Council offices site. This project had been subsequently delayed and an update on the matter was scheduled for the 20 June 2011 meeting of the Committee. The Chief Executive suggested that this matter should now be removed from the Work Programme as there were no plans for redevelopment coming forward in the foreseeable future. It was now likely that there would be a programme of refurbishment of the building.

In response to a Member's request, the Chief Executive also advised that the Committee should receive an update on the Silver Hill redevelopment project. This would be scheduled into the Work programme accordingly. He also reminded the Committee that some other suggested topics for scrutiny may be more appropriate for in-depth investigation and so dealt with initially by an Informal Scrutiny Group, which would produce a report to Committee.

At conclusion of discussion, the Committee agreed that if the Work Programme was to be meaningful, dates for specific items of business

should not be regularly revised without good reason. Furthermore, specific items for scrutiny within the Work Programme should ideally be topics that were of interest and of relevance to residents of the District, if they were to engage with the scrutiny process.

**RESOLVED:**

That the Draft Scrutiny Work Programme be revised having regard to the following:

- (i) Treasury Management Stewardship item of business scheduled for 26 September 2011 be now be dealt with by the Audit Committee.
- (ii) That the referred business (currently scheduled for 20 June 2011) to monitor proposals coming forward to redevelop the Colebrook Street City Council offices site be deleted.
- (iii) That the Committee receive an update on the Silver Hill redevelopment project.
- (iv) That the Head of Democratic Services also include the work programme for the Informal Scrutiny Groups when available (Report OS2 refers).

7. **APPOINTMENTS TO INFORMAL SCRUTINY GROUPS AND EXTERNAL BODIES 2011/12**  
([Report OS2 refers](#))

The Head of Policy advised that although the Report referred to five Members being appointed to lead and chair the Informal Scrutiny Groups, six nominations had been received and these had now been approved by the Committee.

Also, having regard to this increase, each 'batch' of Informal Scrutiny Groups (ISGs) listed in paragraph 3.6 of the Report had been increased to six topics. The Head of Policy also explained that the final topic in batch 1 'The City Council's efforts to reduce its carbon footprint' had been replicated in batch 2. Therefore, the Committee may wish to choose an additional topic for consideration later in the year.

In response to questions, the Corporate Director (Governance) advised that it was likely that not all ISGs would be serviced by Democratic Services Officers. Due to capacity within that team, it was expected that they would administer those ISGs that required their maximum input, such

as ISGs investigating topics that crossed a number of service areas and/or external organisations. 'Single topic' ISGs were likely to be serviced within existing resources of the Team responsible for the function. He also clarified that each topic would be assigned with a Chair and then political group managers would be asked to nominate the remainder of their membership (four Councillors).

The Committee referred to the topics listed in each batch and it was agreed that each investigation should be robust and make the best use of officer resource. The batch 1 ISGs established are set out below and it was agreed that terms of reference would be referred to the Committee in due course. Topics for batch 2 would be agreed at a later date and Members assigned at that time.

In addition to those topics listed at paragraph 3.6, batch 2 topics may include 'Local and National Performance Indicators and their value to the Council', 'Delivery and support for a strong and vibrant community and voluntary sector' (which may be linked with 'Arrangements for the City Council's commissioning process') and also 'Exception housing sites' (depending on progress of the Housing Allocations ISG in batch 1).

The Committee noted that Cabinet had yet to make arrangements for an in-depth review of the significant treasury management implications of the re-financing of the Housing Revenue Account. If this work was not undertaken by a body established by Cabinet the Committee decided that it would consider establishing an ISG for the purpose.

RESOLVED:

1. That the following batch 1 Informal Scrutiny Groups (ISGs) be established with lead Councillors (remainder of membership to be confirmed)
  - (a) Asset Management – Cllr Wright
  - (b) The application and weight of local criteria in allocating housing – Cllr Thompson
  - (c) Air Quality and Transport – Cllr Pearson
  - (d) City Council's efforts to reduce its Carbon Footprint – Cllr Hutchison
  - (e) Allocation of Gypsy/Traveller sites – Cllr Power

- (f) Young People and Employment/Training – Cllr Huxstep

2. That the following Informal Scrutiny Groups (ISGs) be not reappointed for the 2011/12 municipal year:

- (a) Low Carbon Economy Informal Scrutiny Group
- (b) Tree Protection and Management Informal Scrutiny Group
- (c) Planning and the Rural Economy Informal Scrutiny Group

3. That a further report be brought forward to the next meeting of the Committee on the batch 2 proposals for the ISG work programme.

4. That the following appointments be made to external bodies:

- (a) The Centre for Public Scrutiny (CfPS) – Scrutiny Champions’ Network – Councillor Chamberlain;
- (b) Portsmouth City Council Health Overview and Scrutiny Panel – Councillor Chamberlain (Deputy to be confirmed);
- (c) Partnership for Urban South Hampshire (PUSH) Overview and Scrutiny Committee – Councillor Huxstep (Deputy Councillor Achwal).
- (d) Project Integra Policy Review and Scrutiny Committee Councillor Higgins (Deputy Councillor Pearson).

8. **MINUTES OF THE SOCIAL ISSUES SCRUTINY PANEL HELD 9 MARCH 2011**

(Report [CAB2157](#) refers)

RESOLVED:

That the minutes of the Social Issues Scrutiny Panel held 9 March 2011 be received.

9. **MINUTES OF THE ENVIRONMENT SCRUTINY PANEL HELD 14 MARCH 2011**

(Report [CAB2158](#) refers)

RESOLVED:

That the minutes of the Environment Scrutiny Panel held 14 March 2011 be received.

10. **MINUTES OF THE RESOURCES SCRUTINY PANEL HELD 17 MARCH 2011**

(Report [CAB2159](#) refers)

RESOLVED:

That the minutes of the Resources Scrutiny Panel held 17 March 2011 be received.

11. **JUNE 2011 FORWARD PLAN AND ITEMS FOR FUTURE CONSIDERATION**

RESOLVED:

That the Forward Plan for June 2011 be noted.

12. **EXEMPT BUSINESS**

RESOLVED:

1. That in all the circumstances, the public interest in maintaining the exemption outweighs the public interest in disclosing the information.

2. That the public be excluded from the meeting during the consideration of the following items of business because it is likely that, if members of the public were present, there would be disclosure to them of 'exempt information' as defined by Section 100I and Schedule 12A to the Local Government Act 1972.

<u>Minute Number</u> ##	<u>Item</u>	<u>Description of Exempt Information</u>
	Exempt minutes of previous meeting held 7 March 2011:	) Information relating to the financial or business affairs of any particular person (including the authority holding that information).

- Internal Audit ) (Para 3 Schedule 12A refers)
- Update (Exempt )
- Information on ) Information in respect of
- Special ) which a claim to legal
- Investigation) ) professional privilege could
- ) be maintained in legal
- ) proceedings. (Para 5
- ) Schedule 12A refers)

13. **EXEMPT MINUTE**

RESOLVED:

That the exempt minute of the previous meeting of the Committee held on 7 March 2011, be approved and adopted.

The meeting commenced at 6.30pm and concluded at 8.10pm.

Chairman