

THE OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY COMMITTEE**9 June 2014**Attendance:

Councillors:

Pines (Chairman) (P)

Byrnes (P)
Cook (P)
Evans (P)
Gemmell (P)
Learney (P)Power (P)
Sanders (P)
Stallard (P)
Wright (P)

1. APPOINTMENT OF VICE-CHAIRMAN

RESOLVED:

That Councillor Stallard be appointed Vice-Chairman for the 2014/15 Municipal Year. The Committee noted that, in accordance with the Council's Constitution, in the absence of Councillor Pines, Councillor Stallard would be unable to assume the Chair as she was a member of the party which currently formed the Council's Cabinet. Therefore, if Councillor Pines was unable to attend a future meeting, the Committee agreed that it would appoint a new, temporary, Chairman for that meeting only.

2. FUTURE MEETING DATES AND TIMES

RESOLVED:

That the future meeting dates and times be agreed as set out on the agenda.

3. CHAIRMAN'S ANNOUNCEMENTS

The Chairman reminded Members that a Members' Training Session would be held on 1 July at 6.00pm on Performance and Scrutiny issues.

4. **MINUTES**

RESOLVED:

That the minutes of the previous meeting, held 24 March 2014, be approved and adopted, subject to the inclusion of Councillor J Berry to the membership of the Fuel Poverty ISG (page 1 refers).

5. **PUBLIC PARTICIPATION**

No comments or questions were raised during public participation.

6. **APPOINTMENTS TO SCRUTINY LEADS AND TO OUTSIDE BODIES RELATED TO SCRUTINY ETC**

(Report OS98 refers)

In response to a Member's concern, the Committee agreed to establish all seven of the Informal Scrutiny Groups (ISGs) as set out in the Report, with the understanding that they were unlikely to be active at the same period of time and that they would remain under review to ensure that their work remained relevant.

RESOLVED:

1. That following Councillors be appointed as the Informal Scrutiny Group leads for the 2014/15 Municipal Year:

- i. Councillor Gemmell
- ii. Councillor Cook
- iii. Councillor Evans
- iv. Councillor Power
- v. Councillor Sanders
- vi. Councillor Wright

2. That the following appointments be made the external bodies listed below:

- i. Portsmouth City Council – Health Overview and Scrutiny Panel: Councillor Read (deputy Councillor Newman-Mckie).
- ii. Centre for Public Scrutiny (CfPS) – Scrutiny Champions Network: Councillor Pines.
- iii. Partnership for Urban South Hampshire Overview and Scrutiny Committee: Councillor Gemmell (deputy Councillor Achwal).

- iv. Environmental Services Joint Scrutiny Committee (with East Hampshire District Council): Councillors McLean (deputy to be appointed), Pines (deputy J Berry), and Thompson (deputy Nelmes).
3. That the following appointments be made to Batch 5 (and other) Informal Scrutiny Groups:
- i. How we respond as City Council to Homelessness ISG: Councillors Cook (Chairman), Weir, Hiscock, Pines and nominations from the Conservative Group yet to be advised.
 - ii. How we respond as a City Council to domestic violence ISG: Councillors Evans (Chairman), Henry (and one further nomination from the Liberal Democrat Group, yet to be advised), Achwal, J Berry, Verney, Gottlieb and Mather.
 - iii. River Park Leisure Centre ISG: Councillors Wright (Chairman), Cook, Maynard, Laming, Lipscomb, Phillips and Byrnes.
 - iv. Abbey House ISG: Councillor Sanders (Chairman), Izard, Johnston, Rutter, Pearson, Read and Wright.
 - v. Flooding ISG (established by full Council): Councillors Pines (Chairman), Rutter, Learney, Laming, Byrnes, Gottlieb, Bodgter, Verney and Mclean. One further nomination to be advised by the Conservative Group.
 - vi. Fuel Poverty ISG (established by full Council): Councillors Power (Chairman), Weir, Cutler, Hutchison, Pearson, Bodgter and J Berry
 - vii. Museums ISG (established as part of Batch 4): Councillors Gemmell (Chairman), Read, Pearson, Prowse, and Laming. One further nomination to be advised by the Liberal Democrat Group.

7. **SCRUTINY WORK PROGRAMME AND JULY 2014 FORWARD PLAN**
(Report OS100 refers)

In response to a suggestion from the Chairman, the Committee agreed to invite a different Portfolio Holder to each of the Committee's future meetings. The Head of Policy was asked to programme the Portfolio Holder's attendance to coincide with relevant themes on the agendas of future meetings. The Committee hoped that this would give Members a better opportunity to scrutinise each Portfolio Holder's Plans, rather than considering them all together at the October meeting.

Members also requested that, where possible, the discussion could be broadened by inviting the Council's partners to themed meetings. The Committee considered that these could be useful sessions to which other, non-committee Members, may wish to attend and hear the debate.

During debate, Members agreed that, until Members had access to dynamic monitoring (the Covalent IT system), future meetings of the Committee should continue to receive performance monitoring reports.

Members also discussed Member Training and, whilst congratulating officers on the high quality of training offered, noted that officers welcomed Members' suggestions on possible subjects for future training sessions.

Following discussion, the Committee agreed that officers should consider re-programming the proposed presentation on the Crime and Disorder Reduction Partnership (Performance Monitoring), currently scheduled for the 15 September 2014 meeting, to ensure that it did not pre-empt the work of the Homelessness ISG. In addition, it was suggested that when this subject was considered, the Council should invite its relevant partners to that meeting.

At the conclusion of debate, the Committee agreed to additionally amend the Work Programme to include a report on the Joint Waste Contract at its meeting to be held 8 December 2014, a report on IT Support for Members at its 19 January 2015 meeting and an update on the Low Carbon Economy Route Map (CAB2586 refers) at its 23 March 2015 meeting. In addition, and in response to a Member's question, it was noted the County Council arranged training sessions on pensions and the Committee nominated Councillor Sanders as its representative at any future training that might be organised.

RESOLVED:

That the Scrutiny Work Programme and Forward Plan for July 2014 be noted and amended as set out above.

8. **REVIEW OF PROGRESS ON IMPLEMENTING THE RECOMMENDATIONS OF THE LOCALISM INFORMAL SCRUTINY GROUP**
(Report OS97 refers)

The report from the Head of Policy set out the progress on implementing the recommendations of the Localism ISG.

The Committee noted an email which had been sent by Councillor Hutchison (Chairman of the Localism ISG). The email conveyed his apologies for being unable to attend this meeting and, in summary, his concerns regarding a lack of progress in implementing the recommendations. In particular, he highlighted a lack of training for community leaders and he further suggested that a new

Assistant Director (Energy) post should be created to help develop the local energy economy.

The Chief Executive advised that he had replied to Councillor Hutchison, explaining that the Council was in the process of training Assistant Directors on entrepreneurial opportunities (which would also involve the Estates Team) and that the suggested Assistant Director (Energy) post had not been a recommendation of the ISG, nor had it been approved by Cabinet or Council.

The Committee also discussed training for parish councils and their understanding of the weight attached to supplementary planning documents produced by local communities.

RESOLVED:

That the progress made to date in implementing the recommendations of the Localism ISG be noted.

9. **DRAFT ANNUAL SCRUTINY REPORT 2013-14**
(Report OS99 refers)

The report set out the draft Annual Scrutiny Report, due to be presented to Council at its meeting on 16 July 2014.

The Committee agreed that greater emphasis should be placed on the Committee's scrutiny of the Landscape and Waste Contracts, at its meeting to be held on 28 October 2014. At this meeting, the Committee had questioned representatives of the Joint Client Team, Biffa and the Landscape Group. Particular concerns had been raised regarding grass cutting, maintenance of shrub beds and street cleaning and the Committee had advised on the terms of reference for the then new Joint Environmental Scrutiny Committee.

RECOMMENDED:

**THAT, SUBJECT TO THE ABOVE AMENDMENT, COUNCIL
NOTES THE DRAFT ANNUAL SCRUTINY REPORT 2013-14.**

10. **MONITORING REPORT – KEY DECISIONS NOT INCLUDED WITHIN THE FORWARD PLAN DURING 2013-14 MUNICIPAL YEAR**
(Report OS101 refers)

RESOLVED:

That the Report be noted.

The meeting commenced at 6.30pm and concluded at 7.45pm.

Chairman