

THE OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY COMMITTEE

23 May 2016

Attendance:

Councillors:

Learney (Chairman) (P)

Griffiths (P)
Gemmell (P)
Hiscock
Huxstep (P)

Laming (P)
Stallard (P)
Tod
Thacker (P)

Deputy Members:

Councillors Evans (Standing Deputy for Councillor Hiscock) and Thompson (Standing Deputy for Councillor Tod)

Others in attendance who addressed the meeting:

Councillors Godfrey (Leader)

1. **APPOINTMENT OF VICE CHAIRMAN FOR THE 2016/17 MUNICIPAL YEAR**

The Committee noted that, in accordance with the Council's Constitution, in the absence of Councillor Learney, 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 Learney was unable to attend a future meeting, the Committee agreed that it would appoint a new, temporary, Chairman for that meeting only.

RESOLVED:

That Councillor Stallard be appointed Vice-Chairman for the 2016/17 Municipal Year.

2. **DISCLOSURE OF INTERESTS**

Councillors Huxstep and Stallard each declared a disclosable pecuniary interest in respect of agenda items due to their role as County Councillors. Councillor Thacker, whose husband was a County Councillor, also made a similar

declaration. However, as there was no material conflict of interest, they remained in the room, spoke and voted under the dispensation granted on behalf of the Standards Committee to participate and vote on all matters which might have a County Council involvement.

3. **FUTURE MEETING DATES AND TIMES**

Councillor Godfrey drew attention to a recent change to the February 2017 Council meeting date , which he stated may also affect the 13 February 2017 Committee meeting date. In response, the Committee considered that this matter could be reviewed at a later date.

RESOLVED:

That the future meeting dates and times be agreed as set out on the agenda, subject to a change to the 13 February 2017 meeting date at a later date, if deemed necessary.

4. **MINUTES**

RESOLVED:

That the minutes of special meeting held on 18 April 2016, be approved and adopted.

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

(Report OS147 refers)

In respect of the Environmental Services Joint Scrutiny Committee (with East Hampshire District Council), the Committee sought clarification on why the Committee had not met throughout 2015/16. Officers agreed to contact East Hampshire District Council for a response in due course.

RESOLVED:

1. That following Councillors be appointed as the Informal Scrutiny Group leads for the 2016/17 Municipal Year:

- i. Councillor Griffiths
- ii. Councillor Hiscock
- iii. Councillor Laming
- iv. Councillor Stallard
- v. Councillor Thacker
- vi. Councillor Tod

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 Achwal).
- ii. Centre for Public Scrutiny (CfPS) – Scrutiny Champions Network: Councillor Learney.
- iii. Partnership for Urban South Hampshire Overview and Scrutiny Committee: Councillor Gemmell (deputy Councillor Stallard).
- iv. Environmental Services Joint Scrutiny Committee (with East Hampshire District Council): Councillors Bell, Griffiths and Warwick (deputies Councillors Read and Weir, with one additional deputy nomination from the Conservative Group to be advised).

3. That the following Informal Scrutiny Group (ISG) be established and appointments be made to ISGs:

- i. Performance Management ISG (previously referred to as Covalent Performance Management Software ISG): (maximum seven appts) Councillors Stallard (Chairman), Huxstep, Gemmell, Griffiths and three nominations from the Liberal Democrat Group to be advised.

6. **SCRUTINY WORK PROGRAMME AND JULY 2016 FORWARD PLAN**
(Report OS146 refers)

The Committee referred to the work programme which would continue to be updated to reflect other business coming forward throughout the 2016/17 Municipal Year. It was noted that action that was required following work undertaken by previous Chairman, former Councillor Simon Cook, to investigate the role of scrutiny and establish a 'Review of Scrutiny ISG'. The Chief Executive considered that an initial meeting with the newly appointed ISG leads would be arranged in due course to discuss this matter further, with input from the respective Groups.

Councillor Godfrey requested that the Committee take active steps towards the formation of the ISG at the earliest opportunity, so to progress the relevant aspects of the Independent Review response. In particular, he drew Members' attention that the Scrutiny function could be the driver for continuous improvement. In conclusion, Councillor Godfrey stated that it would be beneficial to report the progress made by the Committee on this matter to the

next meeting of the Independent Review Informal Policy Group scheduled to take place on 16 June 2016.

In response to questions regarding the work of the River Park Leisure Centre ISG, the Chief Executive explained that this ISG was a 'task and finish' group that had finished its business in its current form. However, the Committee could consider establishing a new ISG to look at the current position in relation to the Leisure Centre should the Committee wish to undertake some pre-scrutiny policy work in terms of how to take this matter forward.

RESOLVED:

That the Scrutiny Work Programme and Forward Plan for June 2016 be noted.

7. **DRAFT ANNUAL SCRUTINY REPORT 2015/16**
(Report OS148 refers)

The Committee expressed a vote of thanks to acknowledge the work of the previous Chairman of the Committee, Simon Cook, during the previous municipal year.

RECOMMENDED:

**THAT COUNCIL NOTE THE ANNUAL SCRUTINY REPORT
2015/16.**

8. **MONITORING REPORT – KEY DECISIONS NOT INCLUDED WITHIN THE
FORWARD PLAN DURING 2015/16 MUNICIPAL YEAR**
(Report OS145 refers)

The Chief Executive advised that, generally, associated Cabinet reports gave some more details of the reason as to why the matter had not been included within the Forward Plan.

RESOLVED:

That the Report be noted.

The meeting commenced at 6.30pm and concluded at 7.00pm.

Chairman