

**THE OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY COMMITTEE**

**22 May 2017**

Attendance:

Councillors:

Learney (Chairman) (P)

Evans  
Gemmell (P)  
Pearson (P)  
Stallard (P)

Thacker (P)  
Thompson  
Tod (P)  
Weston (P)

Deputy Members:

Councillor Hiscock (Standing Deputy for Councillor Thompson) and Councillor Laming (Standing Deputy for Councillor Evans).

Others in attendance who addressed the meeting:

Councillors Horrill (Leader).

Others in attendance who did not address the meeting:

Councillor Humby (Deputy Leader and Portfolio Holder for Business Partnerships).

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1. **APPOINTMENT OF VICE CHAIRMAN FOR THE 2017/18 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 2017/18 Municipal Year.

2. **DISCLOSURE OF INTERESTS**

Having regard to their roles as Hampshire County Councillors, Councillors Hiscock, Stallard and Tod each declared a disclosable pecuniary interest in any matter on the agenda which may have a County Council involvement. Councillor Thacker made the same declaration as her husband was a Hampshire County Councillor. However, as there were no material conflicts of interest, they all remained in the room under the dispensation granted on behalf of the Standards Committee, to participate and vote in all such matters.

3. **FUTURE MEETING DATES AND TIMES**

The Chairman made reference to discussions that had taken place with the Leader looking at a revised programme of meeting dates to those currently set out on the agenda, to assist the Committee in carrying out policy overview of Cabinet decisions.

RESOLVED:

That the revised programme of Committee meeting dates for 2017/18 be confirmed in due course.

4. **MINUTES**

RESOLVED:

That the minutes of special meeting held on 20 March 2017, be approved and adopted.

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

(Report OS161 refers)

In respect of the Environmental Services Joint Scrutiny Committee (with East Hampshire District Council), Members noted that this Committee had not met throughout 2016/17. However, it was agreed that this Committee would be reappointed for 2017/18 and that a meeting was expected to be arranged over the coming months.

RESOLVED:

1. That following Councillors be confirmed as the Informal Scrutiny Group leads for the 2017/18 Municipal Year:

- i. Councillor Evans
- ii. Councillor Pearson
- iii. Councillor Stallard
- iv. Councillor Thompson
- v. Councillor Tod
- vi. Councillor Weston

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 Brook).
- 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 Burns, Pearson and Weston (deputies Councillors Bell, Jeffs and Read).

3. That the following appointments be made to Informal Scrutiny Groups (ISGs) for 2017/18 (approx. six vacancies per ISG):

- i. Performance Management ISG - Councillors Stallard (Chairman), Huxstep, Gemmell, Clear, Izard and Weir;
- ii. Review of Scrutiny ISG - Councillors Learney (Chair), Clear, Evans, Gemmell, Huxstep, Pearson and Thacker;
- iii. Housing Delivery/Impact of the Housing Bill ISG – Councillors Thompson (Chair), Berry, Izard, Porter, Tait and Thacker; and
- iv. Councillor Workloads ISG – Councillors Weston (Chair), Bentote, Berry, Clear, Izard, Read and Thacker.

4. That the following appointment be made to Overview and Scrutiny Sub-Committee for 2017/18 (Seven vacancies plus two deputies).

- i. Overview and Scrutiny (Major Projects) Sub Committee - Councillors Tod (Chair), Gemmell, Jeffs, Izard, Pearson, Prince and Weston (deputies: Councillors Cook and Hutchison).

6. **SCRUTINY WORK PROGRAMME AND JUNE 2017 FORWARD PLAN**  
(Report OS162 refers)

The Committee referred to the work programme which would continue to be updated to reflect other business coming forward throughout the 2017/18 Municipal Year.

RESOLVED:

That the Scrutiny Work Programme and Forward Plan for June 2017 be noted.

7. **DRAFT ANNUAL SCRUTINY REPORT 2016/17**  
(Report OS164 refers)

The Committee noted that Report represented a succinct summary of the main work it had carried out during the previous municipal year.

Members made reference to the principle that an ISG lead appointed as Chairman to an ISG should remain its champion and as a result should be called on to comment based on their knowledge and expertise in their role on the ISG. The Committee noted that during 2016/17 there had been no Annual Review of ISG recommendations, this was largely due to the fact that there was no substantive update at the time, but expressed a wish that this report come forward in 2017/18. It was noted that this Report was set out in the Scrutiny Work Programme 2017/18 (OS162 refers) for the Committee's consideration in January 2018.

**RECOMMENDED:**

**THAT COUNCIL NOTE THE ANNUAL SCRUTINY REPORT  
2016/17.**

8. **MONITORING REPORT – KEY DECISIONS NOT INCLUDED WITHIN THE FORWARD PLAN DURING 2016/17 MUNICIPAL YEAR**  
(Report OS163 refers)

The Committee gave consideration to the annual monitoring report which set out the number of Key Decisions that came forward for decision, which had not been included in the Forward Plan.

The Head of Legal and Democratic Services made reference to the exception reports, as set out in the Report, where it has not been possible to comply with the 28 days notice of the decision being taken by Cabinet and advised that as a

result of improvements to report planning processes and the proposed adoption of a policy overview arrangement, the number of instances where this situation could occur should significantly reduce in the future.

RESOLVED:

That the Report be noted.

9. **RISK MANAGEMENT POLICY 2017**  
(Report CAB2922 refers)

The Committee noted that this report had previously been considered by Cabinet at its meeting on 26 April 2017 and was also due for consideration by the Audit Committee at its meeting on 29 June 2017, including any omissions and revisions previously referred to by Members of Cabinet and the Committee for inclusion.

The Chairman stated that she had asked that the Committee consider the Risk Management Policy 2017 as part of the role of The Overview and Scrutiny Committee included challenging and scrutinising decisions taken by Cabinet.

The Corporate Director (Professional Services) introduced the Report which outlined the Risk Management Policy for the year ahead, setting out the key changes to the Council's risk appetite which had been updated by Cabinet with further information set out in Appendix 1 to the Report.

During consideration of the Report, Members raised several matters which were answered thereon, as summarised below:

- (i) Inclusion of risk guidance and methodology for an individual person i.e. Member, officer, employer etc, as well as a corporate based approach. In response, the Corporate Director (Professional Services) referred to the Whistleblowing Policy which addressed this matter and the Committee agreed that reference should be made to this within the Policy.
- (ii) Policy should take account of the environmental risks and impacts to address Air Quality in relation to pollution from emissions and other activities which cause harmful effects for local residents. The Corporate Director (Professional Services) advised that the corporate risks would be updated prior to the consideration of the Report by the Audit Committee at its meeting on 29 June 2017.
- (iii) Reference was made to the risks of exposure to legal challenge and Councillor Horrill outlined that there had been years of turbulence and concerns about challenge. However, the Peer Review commented on behaviours and the position of the Council which would be managed

effectively by careful planning to mitigate any impact and ensuring thorough and extensive consultations were carried out.

The Corporate Director (Professional Services) highlighted that the focus for the Corporate Risk Register was drawn from all risks which required an update on a regular basis.

In conclusion, the Committee considered that risk appetite and risk register be reviewed regularly for all of the Council's major projects and agreed that this role form part of the remit of the Overview and Scrutiny (Major Projects) Sub Committee, reporting its findings back to the Committee in due course.

**RESOLVED:**

That, subject to the amendments and comments set out above, the contents of the Risk Management Policy 2017, the Risk Appetite Statement for 2017/18 and the Corporate Risk Register be noted.

The meeting commenced at 6.30pm and concluded at 7.50pm

Chairman