

PRINCIPAL SCRUTINY COMMITTEE

5 June 2006

Attendance:

Councillors:

Learney (Chairman) (P)

Anthony
Chapman (P)
Clohosey (P)
Collin
Cook (P)
Evans
Chamberlain (P)
Hiscock (P)

Huxstep (P)
Jeffs
Macmillan
Mather (P)
Saunders (P)
Rees
Wood
Worrall (P)

Deputy Members:

Councillor de Peyer (Standing Deputy for Councillor Rees)
Councillor Tait (Standing Deputy for Councillor Wood)
Councillor Spender (Standing Deputy for Councillor Evans)

Others in attendance who addressed the meeting:

Councillor Allgood (in his capacity as previous lead Councillor on the Community Engagement Informal Scrutiny Group)

1. **APOLOGIES**

Apologies were received from Councillors Anthony, Collin, Evans, Jeffs, Macmillan, Rees and Wood.

2. **APPOINTMENT OF VICE-CHAIRMAN FOR THE 2006/07 MUNICIPAL YEAR**

RESOLVED:

That Councillor Chamberlain be appointed Vice-Chairman for the 2006/07 Municipal Year.

3. **TIME OF FUTURE MEETINGS**

RESOLVED:

That future meetings of the Committee commence at 6.30pm for the 2006/07 Municipal Year.

4. **PUBLIC PARTICIPATION**

There were no questions asked or statements made.

5. **CHAIRMAN'S ANNOUNCEMENTS**

The Chairman reminded Members that the Committee's purpose was to focus on the wider strategic issues in maintaining an overview of Cabinet's executive functions. Specific points of detail in the Reports should be clarified with officers in advance of meetings and she suggested that the scrutiny of individual Portfolios should be carried out by relevant Scrutiny Panels.

6. **MINUTES**

RESOLVED:

That the minutes of the previous meetings of the Committee held on 27 March 2006 and 13 April 2006 (less exempt minute) be approved and adopted.

7. **WORK PROGRAMME AND APPOINTMENTS TO INFORMAL SCRUTINY GROUPS AND EXTERNAL BODIES**

(Report PS231refers)

RESOLVED:

1. That the following appointments to Informal Scrutiny Groups be agreed (Lead Councillors to be appointed by the Group):

(i) Gershon Savings Informal Scrutiny Group:

Councillors Cook, Hiscock, Learney and Mather

(ii) Business Planning – Post Implementation Review Informal Scrutiny Group:

Councillors Chamberlain, Chapman, Clohosey, and Rees

2. That the following Informal Scrutiny Groups be not reappointed:

(i) Community Engagement Informal Scrutiny Group

(ii) Local Strategic Partnership Informal Scrutiny Group

3. That the Scrutiny Work Programme be agreed as set out in the Report, subject to additions made following consideration of the Forward Plan.

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

(i) South East Employers - Elected Member Overview and Scrutiny Network – Councillor Learney (Chairman) and Councillor Chamberlain (Vice Chairman);

(ii) The Centre for Public Scrutiny (CfPS) – Scrutiny Champions' Network – Councillor Learney (Chairman);

5. That the vacancy for the Portsmouth City Council Health Overview and Scrutiny Panel be referred to the Social Issues Scrutiny Panel.

8. **EXTERNAL AUDIT AND INSPECTION PLAN 2006/07**

(Report PS227 refers)

The Chairman welcomed to the meeting Mr Rubins of the Council's external auditors, PricewaterhouseCoopers (PwC).

Mr Rubins referred to financial and operational risks as identified by PwC in relation to Use of Resources, the embedding of Risk Management procedures, efficiency programme and implementation of e-government initiatives. The Director of Finance reported that she welcomed PwC's planned review during the forthcoming year to assist the Council in improving these areas.

Mr Rubins also clarified how PwC's base fee was calculated according to the Audit Commission's formula. Acknowledging the increase in the fee and responding to questions, he suggested that robust auditing should provide in time tangible benefits to residents from, for example, improvements to efficiency and risk management.

Responding to further discussion, the Chief Executive clarified that mitigation of potential financial risk to the Council from the Silver Hill redevelopment had been carefully investigated as part of the Council's ongoing Risk Management exercise.

RESOLVED:

That the External Audit and Inspection Plan for 2006/07 be agreed.

9. **CODE OF CORPORATE GOVERNANCE**

(Report PS228 refers)

The City Secretary and Solicitor advised that this Report would also be considered by Cabinet at its meeting on 21 June 2006.

RESOLVED:

That it be recommended to Cabinet that the Local Code of Corporate Governance be approved.

10. **RISK MANAGEMENT UPDATE**

(Report PS232 refers)

The Director of Finance stated that the embedding of Risk Management into the business planning process was still an ongoing process.

RESOLVED:

That the progress on the current Risk Management arrangements and the further action being taken be noted.

11. **ANTI FRAUD AND CORRUPTION POLICY – UPDATE TO THE CONSTITUTION**
(Report PS229)

Principal Scrutiny Committee indicated their support for the Policy as set out and requested that Cabinet agree to its adoption.

RECOMMENDED:

THAT COUNCIL APPROVE THE REVISED ANTI-FRAUD AND CORRUPTION POLICY AS A LOCAL PROTOCOL IN PART 5 OF THE CONSTITUTION.

12. **INTERNAL AUDIT UPDATE: TO 31 MARCH 2006**
(Report PS230 refers)

RESOLVED:

That the matters raised by Internal Audit and the action taken to date by the appropriate Directors be noted.

13. **SCRUTINY REVIEW – COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT**
(Report PS234 refers)

At the invitation of the Chairman, Councillor Allgood (as previous Chairman of the Committee and lead Councillor on this Informal Scrutiny Group) introduced the Report and responded to a number of questions.

During discussion, the Committee noted that Cabinet would have regard to potential resource implications in considering implementation of the Group's recommendations.

RESOLVED:

That the content of the Scrutiny Review and Recommendations thereon be recommended to Cabinet for further consideration.

14. **SCRUTINY REVIEW – THE WINCHESTER DISTRICT STRATEGIC PARTNERSHIP**
(Report PS233 refers)

At the invitation of the Chairman, Councillor Chamberlain (as lead Councillor on this Informal Scrutiny Group) addressed the Committee and responded to a number of questions.

The Chief Executive reported that approximately 40 – 50% of the Policy Officer's time was to be spent on administration of the Partnership and there was a possibility of the Partnership providing some financial input to this post. Further to discussion, he advised Members that an Annual Report (currently being drafted) set out achievements and intentions of the Partnership for both Councillors and the public.

RESOLVED:

That the content of the Scrutiny Review and its recommendations be forwarded to Cabinet for further consideration.

15. **DEPOT SERVICES CONTRACT – REVIEW OF 2005/06 (LESS EXEMPT APPENDIX 2)**

(Report PS235 refers)

The Committee acknowledged that improvements in the meeting of the contract standards had been generally maintained. It was also agreed that the Chairman and the Director of Communities discuss the level of performance detail to be provided in future reports. An overview of performance would continue to be presented to Principal Scrutiny Committee on a six monthly basis.

The Committee additionally agreed that Cabinet be requested to nominate a Portfolio Holder to have responsibility for an overview of the Depot Services Contract.

RESOLVED:

1. That performance information of the Depot Services Contractor be noted.

2. That Cabinet be requested to nominate a Portfolio Holder to have responsibility for an overview of the Depot Services Contract.

16. **SCRUTINY WORK PROGRAMME (REPORT PS231 REFERS), JUNE 2006 FORWARD PLAN AND ITEMS FOR FUTURE CONSIDERATION**

The Committee referred to the Forward Plan for June 2006. It was agreed that a number of items be additionally included within the Scrutiny Work Programme and reported to relevant Scrutiny Panels and/or Principal Scrutiny Committee to coincide with Cabinet's consideration.

RESOLVED:

1. That the Forward Plan for June 2006 be noted.

2. That subject to the inclusion of the following matters as referred to within the Forward Plan for June 2006 and the concurrence of the Chairman of the relevant Scrutiny Panel, the Scrutiny Work Programme be agreed:

(i) Adoption of the 'Implementation of Local Reserve Sites Policy' – Supplementary Planning Document (Environment Scrutiny Panel)

(ii) Adoption of the 'Implementation of Infilling Policy' – Supplementary Planning Document (Environment Scrutiny Panel)

(iii) Consultation Draft of Corporate Strategy (Principal Scrutiny Committee)

(iv) CCTV Control Room Relocation – Project Plan (Social Issues Scrutiny Panel)

- (v) Whiteley School Update (Principal Scrutiny Committee)
- (vi) Forward Plan for Winchester Museums Service (Local Economy Scrutiny Panel)
- (vii) Tree Strategy (Environment Scrutiny Panel)

17. **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 Minute of Meeting held 13 April 2006 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Office Options) Information relating to the financial or business affairs of any particular person (including the authority holding that information). (Para 3 Schedule 12A refers).
##	Depot Services Contract – Review of 2005/06 – Exempt Appendix 2)

18. **EXEMPT MINUTE**

RESOLVED:

That the exempt minute of the previous meeting of the Committee held on 13 April 2006 referring to Office Options be approved and adopted.

19. **DEPOT SERVICES CONTRACT – REVIEW OF 2005/06 (EXEMPT APPENDIX 2)**
(Report CAB1158 refers)

Members referred to the information contained within the Exempt Appendix which set out the financial details of the Contractor's turnover and profit.

RESOLVED:

That the information contained in Exempt Appendix 2 to the Report be noted.

The meeting commenced at 6.30 pm and concluded at 9.05pm.

Chairman