

## STRATEGY & PARTNERSHIPS SCRUTINY COMMITTEE

**MINUTES** of the meeting held on Thursday, 13 January 2011 commencing at 10.00 am and finishing at 12.30pm.

### Present:

**Voting Members:** Councillor Melinda Tilley – in the Chair  
Councillor Nick Carter (Deputy Chairman)  
Councillor Jean Fooks  
Councillor Norman Bolster  
Councillor Liz Brighthouse OBE  
Councillor Peter Jones  
Councillor Chip Sherwood  
Councillor David Wilmshurst  
Councillor Charles Mathew (in place of Councillor A M Lovatt)  
Councillor Patrick Greene (in place of Councillor Dr P Skolar)

**Other Members in Attendance:** Councillor Jim Couchman (for Agenda Item 7)  
Councillor David Robertson (for Agenda Item 8)

### Officers:

Whole of meeting Sue Scane, Claire Phillips (Chief Executive's Office)

Part of meeting Stephen Capaldi (Chief Executive's Office), John Parry (Customer Services)

Agenda Item	Officer Attending
7	Kathy Wilcox, Principal Financial Manager
8	Ben Threadgold, Senior Policy Officer

*The Scrutiny Committee considered the matters, reports and recommendations contained or referred to in the agenda for the meeting [, together with a schedule of addenda tabled at the meeting/the following additional documents:] and agreed as set out below. Copies of the agenda and reports [agenda, reports and schedule/additional documents] are attached to the signed Minutes.*

### 1/11 **APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE AND TEMPORARY APPOINTMENTS** (Agenda No. 1)

Apologies were received from Councillor Skolar (Councillor Greene substituting) and Councillor Lovatt (Councillor Mathew substituting).

### 2/11 **MINUTES** (Agenda No. 3)

The Minutes of the meeting held on 18 November 2010 were approved and signed subject to the following amendments Cllr Sherwood had sent apologies, Cllr Couchman attended the meeting and Cllr Carter declared an interest in item no. 6.

The Minutes of the meeting held on 20 December 2010 were approved and signed.

John Parry provided information about staff grievances through the Staff Care Service which did indicate any increases in inappropriate management practice.

### **3/11 DIRECTOR'S UPDATE**

(Agenda No. 5)

Sue Scane, Assistant Chief Executive & Chief Finance Officer advised that Human Resources have produced a toolkit for managers on managing change. She also outlined the process currently underway to assess Key Service Managers across the organisation.

Sue Scane updated the committee on the Big Society and localism agenda referring to the letter to all councillors about locality review meetings taking place in February. Work is ongoing to develop the Big Society framework which will incorporate our approach to community self help, a Big Society fund for communities and the future of the Closer to Communities strategy.

It was highlighted that all expenditure over £500 is now disclosed on the council website.

### **4/11 SERVICE AND RESOURCE PLANNING 2011/12 - 2015/16**

(Agenda No. 6)

The committee reviewed the comments made by individual scrutiny committees at their meetings on 20 December and made the following additional comments;

#### **Growth and Infrastructure**

- Emphasised preference that any additional available capital funding should be used for Highways maintenance
- Wish to remind cabinet of the Bus Champion, Cllr Lilly
- Support for reintroduction of charges at park and ride sites and explore opportunities for retail at these sites
- S106 developer contributions wish to make best use of new arrangements when these are announced by government

#### **Safer and Stronger Communities**

- Noted that support in the scrutiny committee for the proposals was broad but not unanimous
- Importance of the mobile library service was emphasised

#### **Adult Services**

- Budget pressures from delayed transfers of care were noted as a concern

#### **Children's Services**

- The importance of encouraging registration of eligibility for the pupil premium was emphasised to maximise funding to schools.
- The importance and success of the youth offending service that will be part of the Early Intervention Service was raised.

### **Strategy and Partnerships**

- Property – the committee wished to emphasise the potential interest of parish and town councils to take over property.

It was AGREED to forward these and the individual scrutiny committees' comments from 20 December to Cabinet.

## **5/11 FINANCIAL MONITORING OVERVIEW 2010/11**

(Agenda No. 7)

The financial monitoring report was noted.

It was AGREED to refer the consideration of the physical disabilities overspend to the Adult Services Scrutiny Committee and Joint Health Overview and Scrutiny Committee.

## **6/11 DRAFT CORPORATE PLAN 2011/12**

(Agenda No. 8)

The Committee considered a draft of the Corporate Plan for the period 2011/12 to 2015/16 prior to consideration and approval by the Cabinet on 25 January 2011 and Council on 16 February 2011.

The Committee noted that the plan was still in a draft format and further work is underway to develop targets for each priority in the delivery plan.

It was noted that the intention is to reduce the number of printed copies of the plan.

It was AGREED that comments on the specific items in the delivery plan should be sent directly to Ben Threadgold.

## **7/11 FORWARD PLAN**

(Agenda No. 9)

It was AGREED that the Chairman would consider the future work programme for the committee and discuss with the committee outside the meeting.

## **8/11 LOCALISM BILL**

(Agenda No. 10)

Members attention was drawn to the new Localism Bill (which was laid before Parliament on 13 December 2010) is intended to provide new power and freedoms to councils and neighbourhoods. The Bill is very wide-ranging, and amongst other things is likely to have implications for our Big Society proposals and planning / infrastructure funding strategies.

<http://www.communities.gov.uk/localgovernment/decentralisation/localismbill/>

..... in the Chair

Date of signing .....