

STRATEGY & PARTNERSHIPS SCRUTINY COMMITTEE

13 JANUARY 2011

SCHEDULE OF COMMENTS FROM SCRUTINY COMMITTEE MEETINGS HELD ON 20 DECEMBER 2010

Growth & Infrastructure Scrutiny Committee

There was general agreement on all of the proposals, but the Committee would recommend the Cabinet to bear the following points in mind when making decisions:

Transport [Highways; traffic and parking; road safety (those areas not covered by the Safer & Stronger Communities Scrutiny Committee); public passenger transport]

- The Committee supported in principle the Park and Ride charging proposals, and recommend that that any parking charge system introduced is easy to implement and understand but also spreads charges fairly across user groups, in particular bearing in mind those who Park and cycle and those who park and do not go into the City.
- There is a need to ensure we are achieving maximum savings from contractual arrangements with Partners
- It is important that we realise opportunities to explore retail opportunities at Park and Ride sites for future income generation
- Any changes to levels of bus subsidy need to be very carefully considered, particularly taking into account subsidies needed for new bus routes.

Growth & Infrastructure [Regional planning and local development framework; economic development; waste management; environmental management; archaeology; access to the countryside; tourism]

- It was agreed that any energy saving proposals need to have sound business cases sitting behind them.
- The impact of changes to waste recycling centres on present and likely future communities need to be carefully considered.
- Opportunities for working with partners on some Council services should be explored for future budget proposals

Capital

- The committee was in general agreement that any additional Capital funding should be used for Highways Maintenance.

Safer & Stronger Communities Scrutiny Committee

There was overall support for the proposals put forward – locality and partnership working were seen as key to the future provision of services covered by this committee's remit.

Community Safety (Community Safety, Fire and Rescue and Emergency Planning, Trading Standards, Safer Communities)

Overall support for the proposals put forward. Discussion took place to reassure the future capability of the fire service. The potential of further and future partnership working arrangements were seen as critical in terms of Trading Standards and Safer Communities.

Social and Community Services (Library services, Museum services, Heritage and arts mgmt, History services, Victoria County History, Partnerships with arts orgs, The Mill and Cultural Development)

Overall support for the proposals put forward. There was much discussion regarding the future vision of a modernised library service – including a review of the mobile library services. A member raised concerns over the library proposals in terms of the continued free provision of internet services, rotation of books and loss of staff with professional library skills. A member suggested a working group review the longer term options for the Mill and Banbury Library – this will be picked up as part of the localities reviews.

Adult Services Scrutiny Committee

The Chairman summarised as follows:

The aim of this committee is to consider and comment on the savings proposals presented in the Adult Social Care Business Strategy. The focus of discussion of this meeting is required to be on policy areas that may depart from this Committee's understanding of the business strategy as expressed at previous Adult Services Scrutiny meetings. With that in mind the key policy areas may be listed as follows:

- An emphasis on finding alternatives to residential care for older people with a focus on providing domiciliary care, with a greater reliance on extra care housing.
- The introduction of all who qualify to self directed support, with efficiency savings implemented using the resource allocation system.
- Moving to the voluntary and community provision of transport for those who use day services or choose alternative day opportunities with a personal budget.
- Community development team reducing and a refocus on supporting community based services such as the currently funded Good Neighbour Scheme
- Reduction in funding for Supporting People services of 5% per annum
- Moving from internally provided support to agency or self purchased domiciliary care.
- Limits on contract inflation allowances
- Redesign of services for those with mental health needs
- Review the Contract with the Oxfordshire Care Partnership

It is understood that this business strategy seeks to deliver savings by pursuing a strategy of prevention, increased focus on personalisation, and the delivery of services that offer protection for people through better partnership working.

There were no comments on the capital proposals set out in the strategy.

Recommendations

- **The proposals set out in this business strategy are acceptable to this committee** Vote carried with 6 in agreement (2 disagreed, and 1 abstained).

SYP6

- **Capital proposals were supported by the committee** Vote carried with 8 in agreement (1 disagreed)

Children's Services Scrutiny Committee

The proposals for savings to the Children and Young People's (CYP&F) budgets were grouped and considered under four main headings:

- 1. Management Review (including business and administrative functions)**
- 2. Education (including School Improvement and national strategies)**
- 3. Communities (redesign of the Early Intervention Service)**
- 4. Social Care and Safeguarding**

In addition the Committee considered proposals for the Music Service.

The Committee considered the savings proposals line by line and **agreed (by 10 votes to 3) to support in principle the proposals for CYP&F. They also supported the proposal for the Music Service.**

In giving their support, members stated that they would wish to be briefed regularly on the roll out of the Early Intervention Centres. In particular members were assured that there would be outreach support provided from the centres.

Further, members would wish to be part of any review that would consider charging families for respite care for disabled children. Members expressed a hope that this could be avoided if possible.

Finally, the committee would wish to monitor closely proposals for changes to the funding of the Equality and Diversity Achievement Service (EDAS) and to be given an opportunity to scrutinise the business plan for Outdoor Centres at some time in spring 2011.

Strategy & Partnership Scrutiny Committee

Overall the proposals were supported. It was noted that the areas discussed largely represent staffing restructures to reflect the changing shape and size of the organisation in the coming years.

Property Asset Management

Proposals were supported. There was some discussion on the previously agreed re-tendering of the property services contract in 2012 that will seek a delivery partner.

Customer services (shared services, ICT, customer service centre, procurement)

There was overall support for the proposals put forward.

Chief Executive's Office (personal office, HR, corporate finance, Law and Governance and Policy, Partnerships and Communications)

Proposals were supported. There was some discussion on the profile of savings in HR and finance that reflect the tapering of the organisation in later years. The proposal to explore opportunities to 'sell' services such as internal audit to others organisations was supported.

Corporate savings (includes inflation savings, insurance, terms and conditions)

The proposals were supported. It was noted that the consultation on terms and conditions reflects staff suggestions and is proceeding positively with unions.

Outcome: Proposals supported (by 8 votes in favour and 1 against)