

CITY OF PLYMOUTH

Subject: Overview & Scrutiny Management Board Scrutiny Report – Second Quarter
Committee: Overview & Scrutiny Management Board
Date: 26 January 2011
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Part: Part I

Executive Summary:

This report sets out a review of the performance of the Overview and Scrutiny Management Board for the second quarter of 2010/11, incorporating the meetings of 22 September, 6 October, 27 October and 24 November, 2010.

Corporate Plan 2009-2012:

The Overview and Scrutiny Management Board provides management of strategic scrutiny of all Corporate Improvement Priorities and is the lead scrutiny body for the Corporate Plan.

Implications for Medium Term Financial Plan and Resource Implications: Including finance, human, IT and land

The Management Board has scrutinised the revenue and capital budgets, and Corporate Improvement Priorities relating to the above during the period of this report.

Other Implications: e.g. Section 17 Community Safety, Health and Safety, Risk Management, Equalities Impact Assessment, etc.

As above

Recommendations & Reasons for recommended action:

That the report is noted

Alternative options considered and reasons for recommended action:

N/A

Background papers:

Overview and Scrutiny Management Board agendas and minutes.

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Overview & Scrutiny Management Board Scrutiny Report – Second Quarter

1. Introduction

- 1.1 This report sets out a review of the performance of the Overview and Scrutiny Management Board for the second quarter of 2010/11, incorporating the meetings of 22 September, 6 October, 27 October and 24 November, 2010.

2. Scope of the Overview and Scrutiny Management Board

- 2.1 The Overview and Scrutiny Management Board is primarily responsible for managing the workload of the Council's five scrutiny panels, namely -
- Health & Adult Social Care
 - Children & Young People
 - Customers & Communities
 - Growth & Prosperity
 - Support Services
- 2.2 The detailed terms of reference for the Overview and Scrutiny Management Board are contained within the Council's Constitution.
- 2.3 The Panel, through its strategic management of the Council's scrutiny function, including monitoring of finance and performance, focuses on the role of the following Cabinet Members and Corporate Management Team officers:

Title	Name
Cabinet Member (Finance, Property, People and Governance)	Councillor Ian Bowyer
Cabinet Member (Performance and Transformation)	Councillor Sam Leaves
Director for Corporate Support	Adam Broome
Assistant Chief Executive	Ian Gallin
Chief Executive	Barry Keel
Leader of the Council	Councillor Mrs Pengelly

3. Membership and Attendance

- 3.1 Membership of the Overview and Scrutiny Management Board comprises the following councillors, co-opted representatives and supporting officers –
- Councillor James (Chair)
 - Councillor Ball (Vice-Chair)
 - Councillor Browne
 - Councillor McDonald (appointed with effect from 6 October, 2010 to replace Councillor Williams)
 - Councillor Nicholson
 - Councillor Ricketts
 - Councillor Stevens
 - Councillor Thompson

- Councillor Wildy
- Councillor Williams (resigned after meeting on 22 September, 2010)
- Mr Douglas Fletcher, Co-opted Representative
- Mr Jake Paget (appointed with effect from 6 October, 2010)
- Giles Perritt, Lead Officer
- Katey Johns, Democratic Support Officer

3.2 The graph below demonstrates the attendance of panel members at meetings during this quarter -

		Number of Meetings			
		1	2	3	4
Panel Membership	Councillor James				
	Councillor Ball				
	Councillor Browne				
	Councillor McDonald				
	Councillor Nicholson				
	Councillor Ricketts				
	Councillor Stevens				
	Councillor Thompson				
	Councillor Wildy				
	Councillor Williams				
	Mr Fletcher				
	Mr Paget				
	Giles Perritt				
	Katey Johns				

4. Key Achievements to Date

4.1 Since the last performance report the panel has met on four occasions. Meetings have been well structured, efficiently managed and well attended by members. Members have continued to challenge the council's executive and make a positive contribution to support an effective strategic and operational overview through –

(a)	questioning the Leader and Chief Executive on the impact on the Council as a result of the recent change in government;
(b)	scrutiny of the Joint Performance and Finance Report and the Medium Term Financial Strategy 2010/14;
(c)	receipt of updates/additions to the Forward Plan;
(d)	monitoring progress against recommendations arising from the 2009/10 budget scrutiny process.

4.2 In addition, the Board has appointed a second co-opted representative to its membership to represent young people in the City. As a former co-optee to the Children and Young People's Overview and Scrutiny Panel, and a former member of the Youth Parliament, Jake Paget has considerable knowledge and experience to bring to the Board.

- 4.3 At its meeting on 6 October, 2010, the Board considered the first councillor call for action which had been submitted in respect of the Budshead Trust. The Budshead Trust was a well-established community organisation which had successfully delivered a number of youth projects around drug and alcohol misuse but was at risk of closure due to its inability to secure core funding. Members heard from a number of witnesses supporting the work of the Trust, including the Police. Whilst it was recognised that the Budshead Trust worked hard to provide an excellent service within the community and that there could be consequences should it have to close, Members were mindful that this call for action was very much a 'test case' in that other areas of the voluntary sector would be watching to see the outcome. The Board did not, therefore, want to set a precedent to open the floodgates for similar bids for financial assistance. Full details of Board's considerations can be seen in the minutes from that meeting and that of the meetings held on 27 October and 24 November, 2010.
- 4.4 A working group comprising the non-chair members of the Overview and Scrutiny Management Board has been established to review how effectively the scrutiny function is holding the executive to account and to identify ways of improved working. To date the group has met twice from which a number of recommendations have been referred back to the Board, including establishment of a Task and Finish Group to look at how scrutiny can better engage with the media.

5. On the Horizon

- 5.1 Over the next year the Board will -
- continue to ensure that scrutiny and partnership governance arrangements reflect the changing local, regional and national policy agenda of the new government
 - meet on 5, 12 and 17 January, 2011, to scrutinise the revised Corporate Plan and budget setting arrangements for 2011/12
 - receive regular quarterly updates on Joint Performance and Finance
 - look at the Transformational Change Programme
 - investigate data sharing between partner agencies
 - monitor reviews in respect of Citybus and the Joint Strategic Needs Assessment
 - undertake post-decision scrutiny of the 'Final Sign Off of Devonport Regeneration Community Partnership (DRCP) Succession Strategy
 - carry out a Task and Finish Group to look at how scrutiny can better engage with the media

6. Recommendation

- 6.1 That the progress of the Overview and Scrutiny Management Board be noted.

Giles Perrit, Head of Policy, Performance and Partnerships
Lead Officer Overview and Scrutiny Management Board
January 2011