

Overview and Scrutiny Management Board

Wednesday 13 March 2013

PRESENT:

Councillor Mrs Aspinall, in the Chair.

Councillor Tuffin, Vice Chair.

Councillors Bowie, Philippa Davey, Fry, James, Monahan, Murphy, Mrs Nelder, Nicholson, Stevens and Wiggins.

Apologies for absence: Councillors Bowyer and Casey.

Also in attendance: Judith Harwood (Assistant Director for Education Learning and Family Support), Councillor Lowry (Cabinet member for Finance), Pam Marsden (Assistant Director for Joint Commissioning and Adult Social Care), Councillor McDonald (Cabinet Member for Public Health and Adult Social Care), David Northey (Head of Finance), Councillor Penberthy (Cabinet Member for Cooperatives and Community Development), Giles Perritt (Head of Policy, Performance and Partnerships), Candice Sainsbury (Senior Policy, Performance and Partnership Advisor), David Shepperd (Head of Legal Services), Councillor Williams (Cabinet Member for Children and Young People) and Helen Wright (Democratic Support Officer).

The meeting started at 3.30 pm and finished at 5.45 pm.

Note: At a future meeting, the committee will consider the accuracy of these draft minutes, so they may be subject to change. Please check the minutes of that meeting to confirm whether these minutes have been amended.

107. **DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

There were no declarations of interest made by councillors in accordance with the code of conduct.

108. **MINUTES**

Agreed that the minutes of the meeting held on 12 December 2012, 9 January, 14 January, 16 January and 30 January 2013 are confirmed as a correct record.

109. **CHAIR'S URGENT BUSINESS**

The Chair advised that this was the first meeting of the management board to trial the paperless office initiative and that she would welcome councillors' feedback following the meeting.

110. **TRACKING DECISIONS**

The board considered the schedule of decisions made and noted the latest position.

With regard to minute 88 (Energy from Waste Plant) the board agreed to review whether it receives regular progress updates on this matter at its July meeting.

111. **WORK PROGRAMMES**

The work programme of the Overview and Scrutiny Management Board and panels were submitted for consideration and approval.

The board agreed –

- (1) the panels' work programmes and its own work programme;
- (2) that the Children and Young People OSP and the Growth and Prosperity OSP hold a joint meeting to scrutinise youth unemployment (how successful young people with special educational needs and disabilities are in gaining employment) together with representatives from health; the Children and Young People OSP to lead on this matter;
- (3) the annual scrutiny report is submitted to the Management Board meeting scheduled for 10 April 2013; panels' submissions needed to be drafted by the Chair, Vice Chair and lead officers;
- (4) that ICT shared services remain with the Support Services OSP and a report is provided to the Management Board following scrutiny of the business plan.

112. **CALL-INS**

There were no call-ins for consideration at this meeting.

Order of Business

With the permission of the Chair, the order of business on the agenda was amended, as set out below in the minutes.

113. **CABINET MEMBERS**

The Chair welcomed the Cabinet Member for Public Health and Adult Social Care who provided a brief overview of her areas of responsibility which included –

- (a) as part of the Health and Social Care Act 2012, the Primary Care Trusts and Strategic Health Authorities had been abolished and replaced by GP led Clinical Commissioning Groups; the establishment of the Health and Wellbeing Board and the Health and Wellbeing Strategy; the transfer of public health responsibilities to local authorities and the introduction of Health Watch;

- (b) the Government had set a target of 70 per cent for social care clients receiving self-directed support (direct payments and personal budgets) by April 2013; it was anticipated that the council would be close to this target by the end of March 2013 and would achieve 100 per cent by March 2014;
- (c) a number of new delivery plans agreed by Cabinet in January 2013 which would help manage the financial pressures for 2013/14 and beyond;
- (d) there were significant demands on the service due to Plymouth's high population of people over the age of 65.

In response to a question raised, there were robust procedures in place to monitor the delivery plans and the budget using various methods; such as the People Programme Board, scrutiny by the Health and Adult Social Care Overview and Scrutiny Panel and the monthly corporate monitoring reports received by Cabinet which included financial and HR information (including sickness).

114. **URGENT EXECUTIVE DECISIONS**

The Chair advised that there had been two urgent decisions; the co-location with health at Windsor House and the transfer of the freehold of Devonport Market Hall building which were noted by the board.

115. **NOTICE OF FORTHCOMING KEY EXECUTIVE DECISIONS AND PRIVATE BUSINESS**

The board noted the update provided on the executive key decisions as follows –

- (a) all the following decisions were agreed at the Cabinet meeting held on 12 March 2013 -
 - Central Park master plan review;
 - young person's accommodation commissioning plan;
 - peninsula framework agreements for independent sector children and young people's placement.

The role of the City Council acting as guarantor to the Millfields Trust had subsequently been referred to City Council meeting on 22 April 2013 (as this was a Council decision and not Cabinet).

116. **DRAFT CHILD POVERTY ACTION PLAN**

The Cabinet Member for Cooperatives and Community Development, the Cabinet Member for Children and Young People, Senior Policy, Performance and Partnerships Advisor, Assistant Director for Joint Commissioning and Adult Social Care, Assistant Director for Education Learning and Family Support and Head of Legal Services submitted a report on the draft Child Poverty Action Plan together with the engagement and consultation feedback from the draft child poverty strategy, which highlighted the following key points –

- the strategic approach;
- the building blocks;
- financial support and independence;
- family life and children's life chances;
- communities and neighbourhoods;
- tackling child poverty is everyone's business;
- additional areas to consider;
- current activity.

A discussion took place relating to the various governance options for the child poverty strategy.

In responses to questions raised, it was reported that -

- (a) the current trend for teenage smoking in Plymouth was higher than average; in the highest deprived areas one in three adults smoked compared to one in eight in the least deprived areas;
- (b) there would be a direct impact on child poverty with the estimated sum of £20 to £30 million being removed from the local economy due to the effects of the welfare reforms.

The board agreed –

- (1) that consideration be given to the Child Poverty Strategy being brought back to the Management Board on 10 April 2013 prior to its submission to Cabinet on 21 May 2013;
- (2) that the action plan is monitored by the management board;
- (3) to support the 11 draft objectives contained within the strategy;
- (4) that the Chair, Vice Chair, Councillor James and the lead officer meet to discuss options for the governance arrangements and to circulate to board members for approval.

117. **JOINT FINANCE AND PERFORMANCE CAPITAL AND REVENUE MONITORING REPORT**

The Head of Finance and the Cabinet Member for Finance submitted the joint finance and performance capital and revenue monitoring report together with the corporate monitoring report for January 2013, which highlighted the following main areas –

- revenue monitoring position;
- key issues and corrective actions (if required);
- revenue delivery plan position;
- amber delivery plans and actions;
- capital position;
- medium term financial forecast;

- key issues;
- capital receipts summary.

In response to questions from the Board, it was reported that –

- (a) the management board would receive as part of the corporate monitoring report, HR information (including redundancy, sickness, grievance and disciplinary data) as well as key performance issues;
- (b) the ten year road maintenance programme which had set aside £20m would address the issue of the poor condition of the highways;
- (c) it was the intention to deliver a balanced budget without the need to use the City Council's reserves;
- (d) by reducing sickness levels by one day, it was estimated that this would save approximately £170,000; it was the intention by including the sickness information in the corporate monitoring report to hold both the Cabinet Members and officers accountable (however it was not a requirement of Cabinet to manage sickness but to set a clear policy);
- (e) a progress update on the disposal of the various housing development sites across the city would be provided to the Management Board when it was appropriate to do so.

The board agreed that the Business Rate Retention Scheme is scrutinised by the management board at its meeting on 10 April 2013 as a private item.

118. **CABINET RESPONSES TO BUDGET PRIORITIES AND CORPORATE PLAN 2013**

The management board considered Cabinet's responses to its recommendations regarding the Budget Priorities and Corporate Plan 2013.

The board agreed to –

- (1) monitor Cabinet responses and review them in six months' time;
- (2) refer recommendation 8 to the Growth and Prosperity Overview and Scrutiny Panel to take forward.

119. **RECOMMENDATIONS**

The board endorsed and agreed the following recommendations –

- (1) with regard to Children and Young People OSP –

- a task and finish group is set up to investigate and understand how many young people across the city are dyslexic and to ascertain from schools on how they identify and support children with dyslexia;
- Alderman Purnell to undertake a review of the training offered and to be reassured that safeguarding practices in place provided safety for children in early years settings;

(2) with regard to Health and Adult Social Care OSP -

- the city council through the Health and Wellbeing Board develop and implement a Health and Wellbeing Impact assessment for all council reports;
- scrutiny panel members use their community networks to discuss and collect consultation responses to the questions posed in the health and wellbeing consultation document to be fed back through the formal consultation route or the democratic support officer for the panel;
- the city council delegate all health scrutiny functions (other than referral of matters to the Secretary of State for Health) to a Health Scrutiny Panel;

(d) with regard to Support Services OSP –

- officers provide the panel with the business plan in June 2013 for the ICT shared services.

120. **PROJECT INITIATION DOCUMENTS (PIDS)**

The board considered the Project Initiation Document (PID) for the Devon and Somerset Fire and Rescue Service Draft Plan 2013/14 to 2014/15.

The board agreed the membership of the task and finish group, as follows –

Councillor Mrs Nelder (Chair)
Councillor Nicholson
Councillor Tuffin

The democratic support officer would contact members of the management board not present at this meeting to ascertain if they were interested in participating in this task and finish group.

121. **TASK AND FINISH GROUP UPDATES/REPORTS**

There were no task and finish group updates/reports to consider.

122. **EXEMPT BUSINESS**

There were no items of exempt business.

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