

OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY MANAGEMENT BOARD MINUTE 136 OF 10 APRIL 2013

RESTRUCTURE OF OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY

The Chair and Vice Chair together with the Head of Policy, Performance and Partnerships and the Team Leader (Democratic Support) presented the restructure of Overview and Scrutiny report, which highlighted the following key points –

- (a) the aim of the proposals to restructure the Overview and Scrutiny Management Board and panels was to improve effectiveness, modernise the function and also bring it in line with the Council's priorities;
- (b) the proposed new structure included a Co-operative Scrutiny Board (the board) and four panels -
 - Your Plymouth
 - Working Plymouth
 - Ambitious Plymouth
 - Caring Plymouth
- (c) membership of the Board would consist of four Chairs and four Vice Chairs and two non Chair members (10 members in total); each of the four panels would consist of 12 members including a Chair and Vice Chair;
- (d) the four panels would be chaired by a member from the majority political group with the Vice Chair from the opposition political group; one of the opposition Vice Chairs would take the role of the Chair of the Cooperative Scrutiny Board;
- (e) the Board would be able to set up Co-operative Scrutiny Reviews, the purpose of which would be to undertake scrutiny work which would be time and remit specific; the review would consist of at least three members which were drawn from a pool of any non-executive members; members would be asked to register their interests and would receive priority placements on reviews which were of interest to them;
- (f) in order to improve communication links a summary of scrutiny activity would be provided to Cabinet on a monthly basis; a monthly circular would also be produced and circulated to all scrutiny members providing details of activity from the Board and

information on forthcoming Co-operative Scrutiny Reviews.

During discussions, the following issues were raised –

- (g) the perceived lack of consultation with the minority group regarding the proposed changes to the Overview and Scrutiny function;
- (h) the omission of 'overview' in the name of the Board (Co-operative Scrutiny Board);
- (i) the title of the Working Plymouth panel did not fully encompass its scope;
- (j) the terms of reference for Caring Plymouth would need to include an overarching responsibility for the leadership of delivery of services to children and young people, as per advice provided by the Assistant Director for Education, Learning and Family Support.

The Board agreed to recommend the following to Council (subject to the appropriate amendments) -

- (1) a new scrutiny structure is approved (as detailed in the report);
- (2) the new terms of reference for Co-operative Scrutiny Board and each of the panels are approved and incorporated into the constitution;
- (3) Statutory health scrutiny functions (other than referral of matters to the Secretary of State for Health) are delegated to the Caring Plymouth panel.

Note:

The full report in connection with this minute is available on the website

www.plymouth.gov.uk/democracy

or by contacting Democratic Support on 01752 304867