

Overview and Scrutiny Committee

6 April 2009

Present at the meeting

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| Councillor M Aldred (Chairman) | Councillor M Klieve |
| Councillor J Moodie (Vice Chairman) | Councillor C Rigby |
| Councillor J S Birch | Councillor R T Splaine |
| Councillor N A Bradbury | Councillor P Thompson |
| Councillor G M Bretherton | Councillor F B Walker |
| Councillor H L Cadman | Councillor Mrs M J Whiteside |
| Councillor B J Fagan | |
| Councillor G W Fairhurst | Co-opted Member |
| Councillor J N Grundy | |
| Councillor Ms P L Holland | Mr B Turrell |
| Councillor Mrs J Hurst | |

154 Apologies for absence: Councillors J Miller (Vice Chairman), Mrs B Bourne, M A Dewhurst, P A Tushingham, N R Whittingham and G Wilkes and Mr D Barber, Rev R Buckley and Rev Deacon R Moore.

155 Minutes: The minutes of the meeting of this Committee held on 9 March 2009 were approved as a correct record.

156 Whipping declarations: The Service Director – Borough Solicitor reminded the Committee that government guidance expected Members of Overview and Scrutiny Committees not to act in accordance with party whipping and that, if they did, they were to declare it.

There were no declarations made.

157 Direction of travel approach to Corporate Area Assessment: The Committee received a presentation on the Comprehensive Area Assessment (CAA) which would be replacing the Comprehensive Performance Assessment (CPA) and was a new approach that examined how effectively local public services were performing and improving the lives of the people they serve. Assessments would provide a snapshot of each area and would act as a catalyst for improvement by identifying where more effort is needed or where exceptional improvement may help others learn. The CAA framework document had been published on the 10 February 2009.

Members asked various questions on the presentation and received responses from the Officers.

The presentation had also been considered by Cabinet (minute 242 refers) and the Audit Governance and Improvement Review Committee (minute 81 refers).

Resolved: The Committee:-

- notes the presentation; and
- thanks the Officer for the presentation.

158 Democratic Services Review – participation in decision making. The future role of township forum's. Report on consultation with forums:

The Committee considered a report of the Chief Executive, which informed Members of the outcome of a consultation process with Elected Members and township forums that took place between August 2008 and January 2009. The report also made recommendations for how the Council, its partners and township forums would operate in the future.

The report was also considered by Cabinet (minute 253 refers).

Members asked questions on the report and received responses from the Officers.

Resolved: The Committee:-

- endorses the findings of the report prior to further consideration by Cabinet;
- endorses the recommendations as set out in section 7.3 of the report; and
- thanks the Officer for the report.

159 Select Committee No 1 (PACT) final report: The Committee considered the findings of the final report on the Select Committee's review on PACTs. The report set out the key aims of the review, methodology, successes with appropriate case studies, areas for improvement and recommendations.

Members asked various questions on the report and gave their views.

Resolved: The Committee:-

- accepts the report now submitted;
- endorses the recommendations set out within the report and the need to respond adequately to them;
- agrees to review the recommendations in six months time;
- refers the final report to the Cabinet and relevant Committees for detailed consideration; and
- thanks the Support Officer for the presentation and the Chairman, Members of the Select Committee and the Policy Officer for their hard work in relation to this review.

160 Wigan Safeguarding Children Board (WSCB) – minutes of the meeting held on 14 January and 23 February 2009: The minutes of the meeting of Wigan Safeguarding Children Board held on 14 January and 23 February 2009 were submitted for information.

The Chairman suggested that in the new municipal year it would be helpful for the new independent Chairman of the Board to attend a meeting of the Overview and Scrutiny Committee.

The report would also be considered by the Children, Young People and Families Scrutiny Committee at its meeting held on 28 May 2009.

Resolved: The Committee:

- notes the minutes now submitted;
- requests the Principal Committee Services Officer to extend an invitation to Ms Woolmore, the independent Chairman of the Wigan Safeguarding Children Board to attend a meeting of this Committee in the new municipal year.

161 Review of the Council's Constitution: The Committee considered a report of the Service Director – Borough Solicitor, which invited Members to review the Council's Constitution.

The report would be considered by the Cabinet at its meeting to be held on 16 April 2009 and also at Council to be held on 29 April 2009.

Members asked questions on the report and received responses from the Officers. Reference was made in particular to the operation of the guillotine.

In view of the suggestion for the closing time for questions to Council being amended, Councillor H L Cadman suggested that the Council Summons could be sent out two days earlier.

Resolved: The Committee endorses the report now submitted, subject to the following:-

- with regard to key decision limits, the Committee supports option B of the report;
- with regard to questions and comments on the minutes of joint authorities, the Committee supports option B of the report;
- with regard to objections to road traffic and other order proposals, the Committee supports the intention to take objections to the Regulation Committee; and
- requests the Principal Committee Services Officer to investigate the possibility of sending out the Council Summons on the Friday (seven clear days before the Council meeting) and report back to the meeting accordingly.

162 Questions (if any) on the Business of the Cabinet: There were none.

163 Questions on the business of the forward plan: There were none.

164 Select Committee No 3 (Tendering) minutes – 9 March 2009: The minutes of the meeting of Select Committee No 3 (Tendering) held on 9 March 2009 were submitted for information.

Resolved: The Committee notes the minutes now submitted as referred to below:

Overview and Scrutiny Select Committee No. 3 - Tendering

9 March 2009

Present at the meeting:

Councillor Mrs M J Whiteside (Chairman)
Councillor B J Fagan

Reverend Deacon R Moore (Co-opted Member)

164.1 Apologies for absence: Councillors Mrs B Bourne, G W Fairhurst and G Wilkes

164.2 Minutes: The minutes of the meeting held on 18 February 2009 were approved as a correct record.

164.3 Response from Environmental Services: The Select Committee considered the response given from the Environmental Services Department (Highways) to the questions proposed regarding the tendering procedure followed to procure Christmas Lights. The discussion considered the issues of market development and the centralisation of the funding used to purchase the Christmas Lights.

Resolved: The Select Committee agrees that it is satisfied with the response received.

164.4 Draft Final report: The Policy Officer tabled the draft of the final report and the Select Committee discussed its contents.

Resolved: The Select Committee:

- agrees the contents of the draft final report, subject to minor amendments;
- agrees that the Chairman and the Policy Officer meet to finalise the report, subject to the comments made in the meeting;
- agrees that the report would then be circulated week commencing 16 March 2009 to all members for review and response to the Policy Officer by 20 March 2009;
- provisionally agrees to meet again on 23 March 2009 to sign off the report; and
- thanks the Policy and Support Officers for their guidance and support throughout the review.

164.5 Date and time of next meeting: The next meeting of the Select Committee will be on 23 March 2009 subject to agreement.

Chairman

165 Select Committee No 3 (Tendering) minutes – 23 March 2009: The minutes of the meeting of Select Committee No 3 (Tendering) held on 23 March 2009 were submitted for information.

Resolved: The Committee notes the minutes now submitted as referred to below:

Overview and Scrutiny Select Committee No. 3 - Tendering

23 March 2009

Present at the meeting:

Councillor Mrs M J Whiteside (Chairman)
Councillor H L Cadman

Co-opted Member

Reverend Deacon R Moore

165.1 Apologies for absence: Councillors Mrs B Bourne, B J Fagan, G W Fairhurst and G Wilkes.

165.2 Minutes: The minutes of the meeting of this Select Committee held on 9 March 2009 were approved as a correct record.

165.3 Discussion on Final Report of the Policy Officer: The Policy Officer gave a presentation on the Select Committee's final report on tendering and comments were invited.

Resolved: The Select Committee:

- agrees the report for submission to the Overview and Scrutiny Committee; and
- thanks the Policy for her leadership of the tendering review through 2008/09 and the support Officer for her commitment.

Chairman

166 Select Committee No 4 (Health) minutes – 25 March 2009: The minutes of the meeting of Select Committee No 4 (Health) held on 25 March 2009 were submitted for information.

Resolved: The Committee notes the minutes now submitted as referred to below:

Overview and Scrutiny Committee Select Committee No 4 – Health

25 March 2009

Present at the meeting:

Councillor G M Bretherton, (Chairman)
Councillor C Rigby
Councillor Mrs J Hurst
Councillor B J Fagan

167.1 Apologies for absence: Councillors Ms P L Holland and M W Winstanley.

166.2 Minutes: The minutes of the meeting of this Select Committee held on 25 February 2009 were approved as a correct record.

166.3 Topic Report: The Policy Officer outlined the draft topic and annual reports. Members had a discussion about the content and format of the report.

Resolved : The Select Committee :

- thanks D. Taylor for the draft reports;
- agrees to forward any further comments regarding the topic report by Wednesday 1 April 2009; and
- agrees to forward any further comments for the annual report by 30 April 2009.

166.4 Annual Health Check - feedback: The Policy Officer outlined the draft responses for each trust following the Annual Health Check meeting.

Resolved : The Select Committee

- thanks D.Taylor for the draft responses;
- confirms that the Select Committee is in agreement for the letters to be sent out by the Chairman; and
- thanks the Policy Officer and the Support Officer for their assistance with the Health Select Committee.

166.7 Date and time of next meeting: Resolved: To be arranged at a later date.

Chairman