

## **SCRUTINY LEADERSHIP BOARD**

### **Minutes of a meeting of the Scrutiny Leadership Board held on Monday, 5<sup>th</sup> January 2009 at Civic Offices, Telford**

**PRESENT:** Councillors R. Aveley, J.A. Francis, A.A. Mackenzie, A.A. Meredith and D.R.W. White.

**ALSO PRESENT:** Ken Clarke (Head of Audit & Democracy), Alison Smith (Scrutiny Manager), Sarah Morris (Scrutiny Officer), and Chris Corbett (Democratic Services Officer).

#### **SLB-1        ELECTION OF CHAIRMAN**

**RESOLVED** – that Councillor D.R.W.White be elected Chairman of the Scrutiny Leadership Board until the next Municipal Elections in May 2011.

#### **SLB-2        APOLOGY FOR ABSENCE**

Councillor H. Williams – plus Councillor L. Lomax (Chairman of the Value for Money Scrutiny Group) and Councillor G. Green (co-opted Member)

#### **SLB-3        DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST/PARTY WHIP**

None.

#### **SLB - 4        ROLE OF THE SCRUTINY LEADERSHIP BOARD AND THE LEAD SCRUTINY MEMBERS**

The Head of Audit & Democracy presented a report that outlined the envisaged main tasks that would be undertaken by the Board.

Those tasks were:-

- To have overall responsibility for ensuring that the Council's scrutiny function is effective and to develop action plans for ongoing improvement
- To co-ordinate, plan and approve a programme of work for the Scrutiny Assembly
- To undertake scrutiny reviews of strategic or cross-cutting items, including the Local Area Agreement, and to hold the Cabinet and appropriate representatives of partner organisations to account for these items
- To hear call-ins and Community Calls for Action. Additional SLB meetings will usually be called for these items to ensure that they are dealt with in a timely manner
- To have ongoing dialogue with members of the Cabinet to ensure that scrutiny is linked to the work of the Council as a whole

- To consider referrals from Cabinet and decide whether to include them in the scrutiny work programme.

The report also highlighted the proposed role for Lead Scrutiny Members, as follows :-

- Attending Scrutiny Leadership Board meetings, undertaking the associated work and contributing to discussions and decision making
- Leading and participating in Scrutiny Assembly meetings
- Taking a lead on the Community Priority assigned to them by:
  - Attending regular meetings with the Cabinet Member(s) within their area of responsibility to stay up to date with current issues, including discussion of upcoming decisions and the Forward Plan
  - Chairing reviews and standing sub-groups
  - Liaising with the scrutiny team to stay up to date on the progress of work
  - Presenting scrutiny reports at Cabinet and other meetings as appropriate.
- Being a media spokesperson for scrutiny work
- Attending seminars and conferences as necessary.

Members accepted their role and commented that scrutiny needed to be constructively challenging.

#### **SLB - 5      LEAD RESPONSIBILITIES FOR EACH COMMUNITY PRIORITY.**

The Head of Audit & Democracy presented a report that outlined the 7 Community Priorities of the Council. Board Members views and preferences had been sought prior to the meeting and, following a short debate, it was

#### **RESOLVED that**

- **All Members of the Scrutiny Leadership Board take collective responsibility for Corporate Priority 1: transforming Telford & Wrekin.**
- **Councillor Joy Francis take lead responsibility for Priority 2: Giving Children & Young People the Best Possible Start in their lives.**
- **Councillor Roger Aveley take lead responsibility for Priority 3: Maintaining a High Quality, Attractive and Sustainable Environment.**
- **Councillor Helen Williams take lead responsibility for Priority 4: Creating a Safe, Strong and Cohesive Community.**
- **Councillor Derek White take lead responsibility for Priority 5: Promoting Healthy Communities and Improving the Quality of Life of Vulnerable and Older People.**

- Councillor Alan Mackenzie take lead responsibility for Priority 6: Strengthening the Local Economy & the Skills of Local People.
- Councillor Adrian Meredith take lead responsibility for Priority 7: An Efficient, Effective and Customer-Focused Council that delivers Value-For-Money for the Community.

**SLB - 6 AGREEMENT ON COMPLETION OF SCRUTINY WORK IN PROGRESS AND FOR CHAIRING THE SCRUTINY STANDING SUB-GROUPS**

A document was tabled that outlined the current scrutiny work in progress and sought suggested lead Members to carry the work forward to completion.

Furthermore, after a short debate, Members made nominations to the position of Chairmen of the Scrutiny Sub-Groups (to be formally considered at their appropriate next meetings, as follows.

**RESOLVED – as follows:-**

**Work in Progress**

- |                          |   |
|--------------------------|---|
| • School Travel          | - Lead Member, Cllr Joy Francis   |
| • Bus Services           | - Lead Member, Cllr Roger Aveley  |
| • Housing/Homelessness   | - Lead Member, Cllr Derek White   |
| • Footpath Gating        | - Lead Member, Cllr Karen Tomlinson   |
| • Section 106 Agreements | - Lead Member, Cllr Karen Tomlinson   |
| • Procurement            | - Lead Member, Cllr Roger Aveley<br>(Cllr Adrian Meredith agreed to assist) |

**Scrutiny Sub Groups**

- |                       |   |
|-----------------------|---|
| • Value for Money     | - nominated Chairman – Cllr Louise Lomax to continue as Chairman until May 2009. After this date, the group would elect a chairman from their membership. It was also agreed that the Chairman of the VfMSG should be a co-opted member of the Scrutiny Leadership Board (also Cllr Andrew Eade to be approached to ask him to appoint Cllr A Meredith to one of the two Conservative group’s places on the Value for Money Group.) |
| • Corporate Parenting | - nominated Chairman – Cllr Gill Green (also to invite one of the co-opted scrutiny members with a background in children & young people to join the group, and to review the Terms of Reference to reflect this)   |
| • Campus Telford      | - nominated Chairman – Cllr Joy Francis   |
| • Health              | - nominated Chairman – Cllr Derek White   |

**SLB - 7      ARRANGEMENTS FOR THE SCRUTINY WORK PROGRAMME  
SELECTION WORKSHOP ON 6<sup>TH</sup> JANUARY 2009**

Members received a short outline of the format and procedures for the Scrutiny Work Programme Selection Workshop to be held on 6<sup>th</sup> January 2009.

**SLB – 8      CHAIRMAN’S UPDATE**

The Chairman reported that there were impending staffing changes in the Council’s Scrutiny section to cover maternity leave for the Scrutiny Officer and Assistant Democratic Services Officer posts. Cover for the Scrutiny Officer post would commence on 19<sup>th</sup> January and recruitment was underway for cover for the Assistant Democratic Services Officer. Members were requested to have those staff moves in mind when calling upon the resources of the Scrutiny Section in the short term.

**SLB - 9      DATES OF MEETINGS 2008/09**

Members noted the next meeting of the Board on 20<sup>th</sup> January 2009 and agreed that the meeting would commence at 4.00 p.m. as would future meetings of the Board.

The meeting ended at 6. 14 p.m.

Chairman: .....

Date: .....