

SCRUTINY LEADERSHIP BOARD

Minutes of a meeting of the Scrutiny Leadership Board held on Tuesday, 20th January 2009 at Civic Offices, Telford

PRESENT: Councillors D.R.W. White (Chairman), R. Aveley, J.A. Francis, A.A. Mackenzie, A.A. Meredith and H. Williams.

IN ATTENDANCE: Councillor G.M. Green (Co-opted Member)

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

SLB-10 APPOINTMENT OF VICE-CHAIRMAN

RESOLVED – that Councillor R. Aveley be appointed as Vice-Chairman of the Scrutiny Leadership Board until the next Municipal Elections in May 2011.

SLB-11 APOLOGY FOR ABSENCE

Councillor L. Lomax (Chairman of the Value for Money Scrutiny Group).

SLB-12 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST/PARTY WHIP

None.

SLB-13 SCRUTINY WORK PROGRAMME

Following the Workshop held on 6th January, to which all Scrutiny Assembly Members were invited to discuss and suggest potential scrutiny review topics; a schedule of the suggested topics was prepared for further consideration by the Board.

The Head of Audit & Democracy presented the schedule and sought consideration of the top twelve topics, together with an allocation of the topics to individual Lead Scrutiny Members of the Board.

Allocation of Work Topics

It was agreed to allocate the topics as follows:-

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|---|-----------------------|
| • Waste Management | - Cllr R. Aveley |
| • Helping residents access benefits | - Cllr A.A. Meredith |
| • Cluster arrangements & locality working | - Cllr H. Williams |
| • Extended schools & healthy communities | - Cllr A.A. Mackenzie |
| • Bringing together health related agencies | - Cllr D.R.W. White |
| • Child Protection | - Cllr J.A. Francis |
| • Highways infrastructure | - Cllr R. Aveley |

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- End of life choices - Cllr D.R.W. White
- Services to young people outside school - Cllr J.A. Francis
- Accessibility - Cllr A.A. Meredith
- Keeping Elected Members informed - Cllr H. Williams
- Developing future skills for business - Cllr A.A. Mackenzie

First Choice Topics

Members were then requested to choose which of the two topics allocated to them, they wished to investigate first (together with any other associated topic suggested by the Workshop) and it was agreed that the following be scoped first:-

- Cllr R. Aveley - Waste Management (it was suggested that this could include consideration of Bulk Collections, and recycling of Trade Waste)
- Cllr J.A. Francis - Child Protection (to include consideration of the increase in Child Protection Plans)
- Cllr A.A. Meredith - Access to Benefits
- Cllr H. Williams - Cluster arrangements and locality working
- Cllr A.A. Mackenzie - Developing future skills for business
- Cllr D.R.W. White - End of life choices

Referred Topics

Members were also asked which of the suggested topics could be referred for consideration to the Scrutiny Sub-Groups and it was agreed that the following topics be referred –

- “Looked after children in the criminal justice system” would be considered by the Corporate Parenting Scrutiny Monitoring Group (CPSMG), as agreed by the Chairman of the CPSMG)
- Crime BVPIs (126,127a&b and 128) be suggested for consideration, by the Head of Audit & Scrutiny, to the Chairman of the Value for Money Scrutiny Group.

The remaining topics on the work programme list would be considered by way of Special Interest Meetings to be convened throughout the year by the relevant Lead Scrutiny Member.

The Head of Audit & Scrutiny outlined a proposal as to how Equality Impact Assessments could be scrutinised. It was suggested that a small group of Scrutiny Members could meet and Cllr A.A. Mackenzie was asked to lead the

Group. The Head of Audit & Scrutiny would contact Member seeking volunteers for the small Group.

RESOLVED –

- (a) **That the allocation of issues for Scrutiny Review and the reviews to be scoped first, as outlined above, be approved;**
- (b) **That Scrutiny Assembly members be informed of the agreed Scrutiny Work Programme and asked to volunteer for the first six Scrutiny Reviews;**
- (c) **That the outlined Special Interest Meetings be arranged as appropriate;**
- (d) **That Members be contacted by the Head of Audit & Scrutiny regarding the membership of the proposed Equality Impact Assessment Group.**

SLB-14 CHAIRMAN'S UPDATE

Value for Money Scrutiny Group

The Chairman reported that the Value for Money Scrutiny Group was to agree a response to the Council's Budget proposals for 2009/10 at its meeting on 28th January. However there was no opportunity for the Scrutiny Leadership Board to consider those recommendations before submission to Cabinet. Consequently the Chairman sought delegated powers for the Head of Audit & Scrutiny, after consultation with the Chairman of the Scrutiny Leadership Board, to agree the Value for Money Group's recommendations for submission to Cabinet.

Advice Centre

The Chairman commented upon the recent decision of the Cabinet to approve the establishment and funding of an Advice Centre in the Telford Town Centre. Lead Scrutiny Members were under the impression that the Advice Centre will be in the Town Centre and they were concerned about the proposed costs and whether paying Town Centre rent levels was the best use of Council money. It was suggested that the Council Leader and Chief Executive, together with the Head of Customer Services & Business Transformation be invited to a meeting of the Board to answer Members' questions on the funding and proposed services at the Advice Centre.

Heath Impact Study

The Chairman would also like clarified at the meeting, outlined above, whether it was correct, as reported in the Shropshire Star, that the Council would fund a Health Impact Study in respect of the opencast mining application and, if so, where that decision was taken.

Workshop Feedback

A report was tabled outlining feedback received following the recent Scrutiny Work Programme Workshop. The feedback was very positive and thanks were expressed to the Officers involved in its organisation.

SLB-15 DATES OF FUTURE MEETINGS.

It was agreed that a special meeting of the Board be convened on 5th February 2009 at 4.00 p.m., as requested above.

A subsequent date of 26th March 2009 had been identified for the next scheduled meeting of the Board.

The meeting ended at 5.08 p.m.

Chairman:

Date: