

SCRUTINY MANAGEMENT BOARD
Minutes of the meeting of the Scrutiny Management Board held on
Tuesday, 12th July, 2011 at 10.00am in the Civic Offices, Telford

PRESENT: Councillors D. White (Chairman), C. Turley, V. Fletcher, G. Green, A. McClements.

IN ATTENDANCE

Councillor T. Hope, Austin Atkinson, Co-optee, Stephanie Jones, Scrutiny Group Specialist and Jayne Clarke, Democratic Services Officer, Kyle Drummond, work experience student.

SMB-1 **APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE**

Councillors R. Sloan and M. Hosken.

SMB-2 **DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

None

SMB-3 **SCRUTINY WORK PROGRAMME 2011/12**

The Scrutiny Group Specialist summarised the key points of the report on the Scrutiny Work Programme. The Scrutiny Management Board was responsible for the overall co-ordination of the work programme and the allocation of resources across the Scrutiny Committees.

In accordance with the process agreed by the Scrutiny Management Board to select topics for the work programme, Scrutiny Assembly members, Cabinet Members, senior officers, Town and Parish Councils and key partners had been invited to put forward their suggestions for the work programme.

Appendix 1 listed the suggestions received by 4th July 2011. A further report was tabled listing the suggestions received after the 4th July 2011, numbers 53-57.

The aim of the meeting was to prioritise the suggestions for the Scrutiny work programme by considering whether the suggestions were suitable for scrutiny, selecting the topics which the Scrutiny Management Board would scrutinise and allocating other suggestions to the relevant scrutiny committee for further consideration. Where there were cross-cutting issues joint Committee meetings would be held.

The Chairman emphasised the fact that suggestions could be made to scrutiny at any time and would be considered at future meetings of the Scrutiny Management Board or the relevant Scrutiny Committee and wider engagement with scrutiny would be welcomed.

The Chairman drew members' attention to the Co-operative Council approach and the proposed establishment of a Co-operative Commission. The Chairman's understanding was that the Co-operative Commission would be looking at alternative ways of delivering services in co-operation with residents, community groups, the voluntary sector, partners and Council staff.

It was agreed that Cllr. Shaun Davies, Cabinet Member, Co-operative Council and Partnership, would be invited to attend a future meeting to discuss the Co-operative Council and Commission further. The Members agreed that whilst Scrutiny needed to retain its ability to independently scrutinise the Co-operative Commission, the work streams should be co-ordinated as there was the potential for duplication.

The Members then considered each of the suggested work items, which committee would be responsible for scrutinising the issue, and where relevant a possible course of action for scrutiny.

Cllr. Veronica Fletcher left the meeting at 11.00pm.

The note in Appendix 2 on the use of the Scrutiny Extranet was discussed and the Chairman said he would like to review the website and extranet further before making a decision on whether the extranet should be maintained or not.

RESOLVED – that the suggestions for the 2011/12 Scrutiny work programme be determined and allocated as shown in the table appended to the minutes.

The meeting ended at 12.10 pm

Chairman:

Date:

SUGGESTIONS FOR THE 2011/12 SCRUTINY WORK PROGRAMME

Decisions made by Scrutiny Management Board, 12th July

	Key issue or service area	Area for Scrutiny	Responsible Scrutiny Committee	Agreed
1.	The challenging financial outlook for the Council and the need to make savings with as little impact on services to the community as possible	It would be helpful if in all individual scrutiny reviews and other scrutiny work members and co-optees could seek to identify any potential efficiency measures that could be implemented to reduce costs	Budget & Finance to consider budget aspects	This should be an underpinning criterion for scrutiny reviews.
2.	<p><u>Economy & Skills Policy development</u> The need to make Council services 'business friendly' to encourage existing businesses to remain in the Borough and to attract new investment.</p> <p>Depending on the issues that businesses have, they may be dealing with a number of officers on different issues – there is no 'client management' system to enable those officers to be aware of those other contacts or issues</p>	One Business – single point of access for businesses to Council services. This would be the business equivalent of First Point for residents	<p>Co-operative & Communities</p> <p>Budget & Finance to pickup budget issues</p>	Refer to committee to consider for the work programme.
3.	Economy & Skills	Could I also suggest that if the Co-operative Council approach is a subject of scrutiny, my Service Area's role in managing strategic relationships with the voluntary sector, and supporting enterprise development (this would include supporting the development of social enterprises, co-ops and mutual businesses to help deliver the Co-operative Council approach) could usefully be a part of that review?	<p>Co-operative & Communities</p> <p>Budget & Finance for savings aspects</p>	This is not a topic for a review, but a suggestion to note when planning the work programme.
4.	Waste and Recycling	Review the existing performance in recycling and consider options for Service	Scrutiny Management	Merge with 5 below. Defer until the review of the waste

		improvements leading into the renewal of the recycling contract post 2014.	Board	strategy is further underway then officers to report to Scrutiny Management Board later in the year. (October 2011 had been suggested for timing the review).
5.	Refuse collection	<p>Blue cardboard container Blue cover to paper bin Plastic divider for tin/glass bin</p> <p>My blue cardboard container was ripped by the refuse team by its 2nd use, since then it and the blue cover to the paper bin have bio degraded, in line with other users I have spoken to. My cardboard container is now in ribbons.</p> <p>The plastic divider to my tin/glass bin has not been returned from its last collection, it is being recycled?</p> <p>Will the council be ensuring replacement blue cardboard bags and blue covers for tin/glass bins have a longer life than the current ones and will council ensure they get a guarantee from the suppliers they will last many years.</p> <p>Are the dividers for glass/tin bins now redundant? If redundant will council notify users in the refuse reminder e-mail or with the next calendar of refuse collection if the divider is needed or not? Will the divider be replaced and who will pay for them?</p> <p>These problems with refuse collection containers must be happening to many users other than my self and the few I have spoken to. Does the council know how wide spread the problem is and what the total cost could be to correct it?</p>		As 4.

6.	Highway infrastructure	To consider 3 key components relating to strategic and operational issues within Highways: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Capital Programme 2012/2013, 2013/2014 	Budget & Finance	Refer to committee to consider for the work programme. Suggested timing October / Early November 2011
7.	Highways Infrastructure	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Winter maintenance 	Scrutiny Management Board	Officer to provide report outlining concerns. Suggested timing September 2011.
8.	Highways Infrastructure	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Highways term maintenance contract arrangements and options 	Scrutiny Management Board	Include 9 and 10. Potholes are a concern for the public and should be looked at. Report to the Scrutiny Management Board – suggested timing September.
9.	Road repairs	<p>Pothole, and road working repairs, method and materials</p> <p>I had concerns about appropriate method and material use of pot hole, and road working repairs long before the last winter. Almost a year ago it was evident across Telford and Wrekin that earlier pothole and road working repairs were starting to flake away around repaired edges, and some repaired potholes had lost most of their filling.</p> <p>Inspecting some of these repairs it was evident they had been botched; the repair material had been rammed in to the cavity and left, not even a tar seal to the edges, the cavities were shallow with sloping V shaped sides. Having seen and helped with filling potholes in compacted hardcore on an unclassified lane I learnt it was necessary that the cavity needed to be deep enough to contain the hardcore, and the edges needed to have a negative draft – A shaped. Tarmac also needs A shaped cavity and a tar seal around the edged of a repair to ensure water does not get</p>		As 8.

		<p>underneath and freeze, expanding, lifting the repair out. Tarmac also needs to be compacted while hot to ensure particles bond to each other, this does not happen if inserted cold. A skilled repairer can tell the difference between a hot and cold repair</p> <p>Is there adequate inspection of road work repairs carried out by an independent engineer not associated with the repair team?</p> <p>Are the repair team carrying out remedial repairs when faults have been found at their expense?</p> <p>I have read of congratulations to the council and repair teams for filling in substantial numbers of potholes recently. How many of those hole will be needing repair after this coming winter, and who is going to pay for their refill?</p> <p>Does the council get a guarantee from the roadwork repair team that their work will last several years?</p>		
10.	Road repairs	Supervision of quality of road repair due to the poorly filled potholes, holes filled while full of water, lack of smoothing of edges causing an uneven road.		As 8.
11.	Road traffic	<p>Road traffic speeds; special reference to Queens Way A442. Slip roads on the A442</p> <p>There does not appear to be any enforcement of the 60 MPH speed limit on this road. As a very frequent user of this road, especially each side of the Stirchley Interchange, I am one of the slowest users at a maximum of 60 MPH with many other cars travelling in excess of 80 MPH and at the same time not maintaining a minimum distance of 2 chevrons (acceptable only up</p>	Scrutiny Management Board	Not to be included in the work programme, but Scrutiny Management Board will send a letter to the police to request a response to the issues raised.

		<p>to 60 MPH).</p> <p>The police are not enforcing the limit, and speed cameras are being switch off in many places. Because of the number of speeders on the A442, redundant cameras could be installed by the council on this road, and would soon return a good income and reduce accidents.</p> <p>A few slip roads on to the A442 enter a dedicated lane, most require the driver to merge with other motorists. Merging is complicated by drivers speeding; it also causes congestion on the slip roads waiting for a safe gap. If all slip roads had dedicated lanes this would cause traffic on the A442 to slow down generally; the part of the road south bound past Telford Station is a good example. North bound past Stirchley Interchange is particularly dangerous leaving the slip road with many drivers, on the main road, lane swapping as traffic merges joining from the A4196. If all traffic south of the interchange were filtered to the outside lane it would slow and ease exit from the slip road with a dedicated lane.</p>		
12.	Illegal parking in and around high streets and enforcement of parking	<p>This is a re-submission of a previous request some 3 years ago that failed to be scrutinised and the initial submission (paragraph 1) is supplemented with further comment at paragraph 2 below;</p> <p>1.“Newport Town Council met on Wednesday 10th December and resolved that this issue be forwarded for consideration by the Scrutiny Work Programme workshop.</p> <p>A large number of residents have raised concerns over an extracted time period,</p>	Scrutiny Management Board	Request a report on the outcome of the review of Civil Parking Enforcement, and information about the enforcement powers of CSOs.

		<p>regarding parking in Newport and we are of the understanding that similar incidents occur in other Borough Towns and Parishes.</p> <p>The main emphasis surrounds safety (of vehicles and pedestrians). It is believed that parking restrictions are imposed to enhance safety and allow reasonable flow of traffic - the current position is at conflict with these</p> <p>There appears to be confusion of whether or not road markings and signage are legitimate and in turn maintained to the required standard to allow enforcement to be carried out robustly.</p> <p>It is acknowledged that many of the acts of illegal parking are as a result of inconsiderate individuals or those unaware of the knock on effect of the collective consequences of their acts</p> <p>Illegal parking represents a danger to all pedestrians along the high street, foot-fall in the Town is not known by the Town Council at this time however, with a resident population of circa 12000 a large number of residents are affected.</p> <p>Parking and parking regulation enforcement involves a number of stakeholders at both operation and strategic level. While Newport Town Council could act alone, it would be helpful to have a broad census of opinion from across the borough to provide a reasonably consistent approach across the Borough, and could lead to the pooling of resources.</p> <p>Having the item 'scrutinised' would raise the profile of the issue and could provide a</p>		
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	<p>means to re-educating those that transgress</p> <p>The issue has been discussed over a lengthy period and little has occurred to improve the situation.</p> <p>2. There has been regeneration work undertaken in the High Street in Newport recently and some of the road marking issues are now resolved. There are however still issues with the road marking in Streets such as St Mary.</p> <p>The issue of enforcement is still of concern. The Police Authority removed the Traffic Wardens over 2 years ago (and they do not see parking enforcement as a priority when measured against other needs). There has been some work by officers of T&W, we understand, regarding the issue and that a review was being undertaken into the feasibility of Civil Parking Enforcement (CPE) being taken on by the Unitary Authority. It is considered that there is a lack of enforcement surrounding parking across the borough towns and that this matter now needs urgent attention to provide a solution.</p>		
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