

Minutes of the meeting of the SHADOW OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE held on THURSDAY 13 AUGUST 2009 at 5.00 pm

Present: Councillor Miles (In the Chair)
Councillors Burke, A Geary (substitute for Councillor Hopkins), I Henderson, and C Morris

Officers: D Hill (Chief Executive), B Sandom (Corporate Director [Environment]), J Moffoot (Head of Democratic Services), M Bailey (Overview and Scrutiny Officer) and F Bower (Overview and Scrutiny Officer)

Also Present: Councillors Crooks, Dransfield, Galloway and Tunney

Apologies: The Chair (Councillor Hopkins)

Members of the Public: 0

MC12 DISCLOSURES OF INTEREST

None

MC13 MINUTES

Further to minute MC07, the Committee considered the terms of reference for the Gatehouse Review Group which had not yet met.

It was noted that the Review Group had been superseded by two other reviews into the Gatehouse School.

The Committee was informed that Dame Jo Williams, who was overseeing the implementation of the recommendations from Kathryn Stone's Independent Gatehouse School Review, was willing to present an update on this work to the Children and Young People's Select Committee at its meeting on 3 November 2009.

RESOLVED -

1. That the Minutes of the meeting of the Committee held on 3 August 2009 be approved and signed by the Chair as a correct record.
2. That a decision on the future of the Gatehouse Review Group be deferred until Dame Jo Williams had reported to the Children and Young People's Select Committee at its meeting on 3 November 2009.

WORK PROGRAMME – ASSESSMENT OF PROJECTS

The Committee considered the updated draft work programme for the Overview and Scrutiny Management Committee and the four Select Committees.

Members noted the following points:

- A scoring system had been used to “weight” each item according to its importance
- Only “high priority” items had been included in the work programme to make the process of allocating items to the Select Committees easier
- Corporate Directors had been consulted on the work programme.
- It was suggested that the Healthier Communities and Older People Select Committee be renamed the Health and Community Wellbeing Select Committee
- The items proposed by the Corporate Director, Children and Young People’s Services had not been scored as they were all considered to be key items.
- The planning groups for each Select Committee would consider how to proceed with the items once they had been allocated by the Management Committee.
- A link officer would be assigned to the Overview & Scrutiny function from each Directorate

Comments from Members included the following:

- There needed to be greater clarity on how the new system would work
- The Forward Plan needed to be used more proactively to support and challenge the Executive’s work
- There should be scope to look beyond a 12 month work programme

RESOLVED –

That the following items be allocated to the four Select Committees:

Children and Young People’s Select Committee

- Achievement and Standards Report
- Review of the Milton Keynes Safeguarding Children’s Board
- Every Child Matters Programme
- Children and Young People’s Plan
- DCSF Improvement Plan

Health and Community Wellbeing Select Committee

- What is Wellbeing?
- Maternity and Neonatal Services
- Future Funding of NHS
- Provision of GP Services
- Joint Working Arrangements with the Council and the Primary Care Trust

Safer and Stronger Communities Select Committee

- Revision of Housing Strategy
- Community Safety
- HiMO Strategy
- Waste Strategy

Economic Development and Enterprise Select Committee

- Libraries and Community Learning Strategy
- Highways Asset Management Plan (AMP)
- Transport Strategy

MC15 TERMS OF REFERENCE

Further to Minute MC04, the Committee considered the revised terms of reference for the four Select Committees.

RESOLVED -

That Council be recommended to approve the revised terms of reference for the four Select Committees.

MC16 BUDGET REVIEW GROUP

The Committee considered the draft terms of reference for the Budget Review Group.

Comments from Members included the following:

- The Audit Committee should be consulted on the terms of reference for the Review Group to ensure there was no duplication in its work
- The Review Group would have a greater responsibility for scrutinising the budget on a day to day basis
- The terms of reference for the Review Group should refer to the “aspirations” as well as the “needs” of people.
- Bullet point four on the draft terms of reference should be amended to read “annual out-turn reports”.

RESOLVED –

That the proposed terms of reference for the Budget Review Group be referred to the Audit Committee for comments, and the comments be submitted to the Overview and Scrutiny Management Committee in due course.

MC17

OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY TRAINING PROVISION

The Committee considered a report on the training provision for Overview and Scrutiny Members.

It was agreed that consideration had to be given to how the training would be delivered and that this should be consulted on with the Members' Training Group.

RESOLVED

That the report be noted.

THE CHAIR CLOSED THE MEETING AT 6.01 PM