

CORPORATE SCRUTINY AND PERFORMANCE PANEL

Tuesday 9 June 2009 at 6.00pm

Panel Members Present Councillor Longhi (Chair)
 Councillor Chambers
 Councillor Cook
 Councillor Rochelle
 Councillor Turner
 Councillor Yasin

Portfolio Holders Present Cllr C Towe- Finance and Personnel

Officers Present Rory Borealis- Executive Director (Resources)
 Clive Wright- Director (Walsall Strategic Partnership)
 Colin Teasdale- Performance and Scrutiny Officer

01/09 APOLOGIES

Apologies were received on behalf of Councillor Young

02/09 SUBSTITUTIONS

The following substitution(s) to the panel were submitted for the duration of the meeting:-

- Delete: Councillor Young
- Substitute: Councillor Chambers

03/09 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST AND PARTY WHIP

There were no declarations of interest or party whip identified at this meeting

04/09 MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING

Resolved

That the minutes of the meeting held on 9 April 2009, copies having previously been circulated, be approved as a true and accurate record.

05/09 FORWARD PLAN

The Chair informed the Panel that a new Forward Plan had been published on 5 June 2009, after papers had been distributed and this was tabled for their consideration (annexed)

The Chair noted item 39/09 on the forward plan 'Walsall Partnership Programmes and Resources' and requested that this was picked up as part of item 6 on the agenda 'Walsall Strategic Partnership Business Plan.'

Resolved

That the Forward Plan as of 5 June 2009 be noted.

06/09 WALSALL STRATEGIC PARTNERSHIP BUSINESS PLAN

Clive Wright handed out a pack to Members containing the partnership structure chart, a summary of their business plan and a copy of the Local Area Agreement. (annexed)

Clive Wright outlined some of the areas of work that he felt the Corporate Scrutiny and Performance Panel could get involved in.

He explained that the Sustainable Community Strategy (SCS) was reviewed annually and had a direct impact on Corporate Strategies, particularly the Corporate Plan. He suggested changes to the SCS could be brought through this panel who could have a role in ensuring these were adequately cascaded in to Corporate documents.

Clive Wright also explained other panels would be receiving performance reports for the Local Area Agreement targets within their remits. For the Corporate Panel the only measure was NI 5 'Overall/ general satisfaction with local area' which they could report on but also suggested that the Panel could take an overview role of performance management arrangements for the LAA.

Clive Wright informed the Panel that the Locality Self Evaluation (LSE) had been drafted and at the request of the Chair agreed to present it to the Panel at its next meeting on the 21 July 2009.

In relation to the performance reward grant, Clive explained that the Partnership Board made recommendation on how this should be spent which went to Cabinet for approval. He suggested that the Corporate Panel could have a role in looking at and commenting on the recommendations of the partnership board. The agreed principle was that the money should be used to invest in the development of services and projects rather than to prop up existing ones.

With regard to the Area Based Grant, Clive explained to the Panel that whilst discreet elements of it may be reported to other Panels as part of other financial reports there was currently no scrutiny of total ABG spend. In response to Members queries he clarified that this information was in the public domain as it was reported to Cabinet and the Partnership Board and that this report could be brought to the Corporate Panel so they could play a role in providing an overview scrutiny of the ABG. Members felt that this was important so as to bring transparency to the process.

He also suggested it would be useful for the Panel to receive updates on work in relation to the mapping of resources and joint strategic needs assessment, the development of a partnership approach to equalities and progress against the target of increasing levels of fundraising by £1m through a joined up

strategic approach.

Members raised issues with the existing LNP process which they felt was not consistently effective across all areas. Clive Wright informed the Panel of the ongoing review and some of the initial thoughts on this, Members felt that they needed to wait for the outcome of this review to progress this further.

In response to a Member query, Clive Wright explained that the 'duty to cooperate' referred to in the report was a statutory requirement for a number of partner organisations arising from new legislation. It affected common partners such as the NHS and Police as well as others like the Highways Agency.

The Chair requested that ongoing monitoring of the business plan took place on a quarterly basis.

Resolved

- 1. That the Locality Self Evaluation is presented to the Panel at its next meeting;**
- 2. That the Panel monitor progress with the items identified from the Walsall Strategic Partnership Business Plan on a quarterly basis**

07/09 Work Programme 2009/10

The Chair presented to the Panel the report outlining proposed work programme items for the 2009/10 year to include CAA, Welfare Advice, Single Status, Payroll and Pensions and Procurement.

The Chair informed Members that the Welfare Advice item was being recommended to be carried out as a cross panel working group and that invitations had been sent to the Social Care and Inclusion, Regeneration and Communities Panels to ask them to nominate representatives. He asked for volunteers from this Panel to which Cllr Rochelle and Cllr Turner expressed an interest.

The Chair also commented on the success of previous Value for Money reviews and requested that officers give consideration to other services within the Panel's remit that would be suited to such a review.

Resolved

- 1. That the following items contained in the report are included on the work programme for the 2009/10 municipal year and in addition to those arising from item 06/09 above (Walsall Strategic Partnership):**
 - ☐ **Financial Monitoring**
 - ☐ **Budget Planning**
 - ☐ **Comprehensive Area Assessment**
 - ☐ **Welfare Advice (working group)**
 - ☐ **Single Status**
 - ☐ **Payroll and Pensions**
 - ☐ **Procurement**

2. That Councillors Rochelle and Turner are elected as the Panel's representatives on the Welfare Advice working group
3. That officers give consideration to, and report back on potential services for a Value for Money review.

08/09 DATE OF NEXT MEETING

The Chair confirmed the date of the next meeting was 21 July 2009

The meeting terminated at 7.10pm