

SCRUTINY OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY COMMITTEE

14 June 2017 AT 6.00 P.M. AT THE COUNCIL HOUSE

Panel Members Present

Councillor Hussain
Councillor Murray
Councillor P. Bott
Councillor Burley
Councillor A. Ditta
Councillor S. Ditta
Councillor E. Hazell
Councillor A. Nazir
Councillor Towe

Officers Present:

Julie Alderson - Interim Executive Director
(Change & Governance)
Craig Goodall – Senior Democratic Services
Officer

Portfolio Holders

Councillor S. Coughlan - Leader
Councillor K. Chambers (Personnel and Business
Support /Agenda for Change)

60/17 APOLOGIES

Apologies for absence were received on behalf of Councillors Bird and Longhi.

61/17 SUBSTITUTIONS

There were no substitutions.

62/17 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST AND PARTY WHIP

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

63/17 MINUTES

Members considered the minutes of the meetings held on.

Resolved:

That the minutes of the meeting held on 14 March, 2017, a copy having previously been circulated, be approved as a true and accurate record.

64/17 **AREAS OF FOCUS 2017/18**

The Committee considered its areas of focus for 2017/18.

The Senior Democratic Services Officer gave a presentation to the Committee (annexed).

Members debated the presentation and potential areas of focus. It was thought useful to consider the approach to member development in order to improve the challenge element of scrutiny. It was thought that new members in particular would benefit from support to enable them to 'hit the ground running' upon election.

Members discussed the level of paperwork that they often received in agendas for committees. Councillor Towe, Chair of Education and Children's Services Overview and Scrutiny Committee, reported the approach that the committee was taking to manage the length of reports. Members agreed to understand more about this approach at a future meeting.

The Committee discussed the request from the West Midlands Combined Authority Overview and Scrutiny Committee regarding developing reporting lines. Members felt that as the central co-ordinating body the committee should undertake this role.

Resolved:

That the following items be added to the Committees work programme:

- a. Overview of scrutiny committee work programmes and activity, including from the West Midlands Combined Authority;**
- b. Member development;**
- c. Education and Children's Services Overview and Scrutiny Committee approach to committee reports.**

65/17 **SCRUTINY COMMITTEE PRIORITIES 2017/18**

The Chair invited each of the Scrutiny Committee Chairs to provide feedback on what their priority areas for the forthcoming year were.

Education and Children's Services

Councillor Towe, Chair of the Education and Children's Services Overview and Scrutiny Committee reported that the focus of the Committee during the forthcoming year would be:

- Issues arising from the forthcoming Ofsted inspection;
- Looked after children;
- Attainment;
- Special Educational Needs.

Following a discussion with the Committee Councillor Towe gave assurances that the Committee would consider the performance of academy schools and invite Willenhall E-Act Academy to discuss the outcome of their recent Ofsted inspection which rated the school 'inadequate'.

Corporate and Public Services

Councillor Andrew, Chair of the Corporate and Public Services Overview and Scrutiny Committee, reported that the Committee would be considering issues around traffic management at Remembrance Day parades and the performance of local social housing providers. He explained that the Committee received a significant number of petitions each year for which he was considering organising special meetings.

Following a question the Leader of the Council explained that Transport for West Midlands were to begin providing CCTV coverage for Walsall.

Social Care and Health

The Senior Democratic Services Officer read an email from Councillor Longhi, Chair of the Social Care and Health Overview and Scrutiny Committee setting out the Committees priorities for the year would be:

- Primary care services;
- CCG and Walsall Healthcare Trust special measures;
- Mental health services;
- Adult social care;
- Reacting to new findings and inspection reports as necessary.

Following a question a Member of the Social Care and Health Overview and Scrutiny Committee reported that the Committee had considered reports on cancelled appointments at the hospital and would be reviewing progress during the year.

The Leader reported ongoing regional issues to the Committee. In particular he highlighted that the West Midlands Combined Authority had a Mental Health Commission. He also highlighted the significance of the implementation of the health service Strategic Transformation Plans which was likely to see efficiencies placed on local services.

Resolved:

That:

- 1. The Education and Children's Services Overview and Scrutiny Committee consider the performance of Academy Schools;**
- 2. The Education and Children's Services Overview and Scrutiny Committee invite representatives of the Willenhall E-Act Academy to a meeting to discuss the recent Ofsted report of the school;**
- 3. The priorities for each committee for 2017/18 be noted.**

66/17 **FORWARD PLANS**

Members considered the forward plan of key decisions form Cabinet and the Black Country Joint Executive (annexed).

Resolved:

That the forward plans be noted.

67/17 **DATE OF NEXT MEETING**

The date of the next meeting was noted as 28 September 2017.

The meeting terminated at 6.38 p.m.

Chair:

Date:.....