

CORPORATE SCRUTINY AND PERFORMANCE PANEL

15 June 2010, 6pm

Panel Members Present Councillor M Longhi (Chair)
Councillor M Nazir (Vice-Chair)
Councillor R Burley
Councillor M Flower
Councillor A Griffiths
Councillor J Rochelle
Councillor I Shires
Councillor D Turner

Portfolio Holders Present Councillor C Towe – Finance and personnel

Officers Present Rory Borealis - Executive Director (Resources)
Nikki Ehlen – Scrutiny Officer

01/10 APOLOGIES

Apologies were received on behalf of Councillor L Jeavons

02/10 SUBSTITUTIONS

There were no substitutes for the duration of the meeting.

03/10 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST AND PARTY WHIP

There were no declarations of interest or party whip.

04/10 MINUTES

Councillor Turner requested a hard copy of the Cabinet report 'New Depot, Brownhills'. Members were advised that the Cabinet report 'New Depot, Brownhills' was held in private session, consequently if ward members required this report they would need to request individually from constitutional services.

RESOLVED:

That the minutes of the meeting held on 8 April 2010, copies having previously circulated, be approved as a true and accurate record.

05/10 **WORK PROGRAMME 2010/11**

Members considered the work programme report for 2010/11, and a range of potential items within their remit. It was agreed that the work programme discussed at the meeting would be indicative only, due to the potential implications of the new administration.

Members agreed that when considering services provided by the Council, it should be remembered that the Council does not operate in isolation and the role of partners should be considered. Members suggested that it was likely that there may be a duplication of services, and it may be valuable to identify who was best placed to deliver services.

The panel discussed value for money (vfm) reviews that the panel has previously undertaken, and suggested that the panel should monitor the outcomes of these reviews.

In terms of recently introduced spending transparency requirements, members agreed to receive proposals to consider the Councils' response.

The portfolio holder for finance and personnel informed the panel that he would be involved in a piece of work, which would consider the position of the Council when benchmarked against other like Councils, in the delivery of particular services. The Chair stated that he would be happy to contribute to this piece of work.

The Chair proposed that the panel should consider the Corporate Asset Management plan, should the Regeneration Scrutiny and Performance Panel decide not to add it to their work programme. Members were asked to consider vfm reviews which could be carried out by the panel in municipal year 2010 - 2011. It was agreed that a vfm assessment framework would be sent to Councillor Burley.

The panel agreed that in light of budget pressures and economic circumstances partners needed to work together to deliver common services and remove duplication. The panel expressed interest in considering the effectiveness of partnership arrangements and corporate arrangements in light of budget pressures. In particular Members expressed interest in the value for money being delivered through the thematic groups under the Walsall Partnership arrangements.

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RESOLVED:

That:

1. the following items be added to the Panels work programme for 2010/11:

a) Working Smarter

- b) Monitoring of previous vfm reviews completed by the Corporate Scrutiny and Performance Panel**
- c) Spending transparency proposals**
- d) The benchmarking work planned by the Portfolio holder for finance and personnel**
- e) Efficiency of partnership arrangements**

2. The vfm toolkit is sent to Councillor Burley.

DATE OF NEXT MEETING

It was noted that the date of the next meeting was 22 July 2010.

The meeting terminated at 7.05 p.m.

Signed:

Date: