

## **CORPORATE & PUBLIC SERVICES OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY COMMITTEE**

18 JUNE 2015 AT 6.00 P.M. AT THE COUNCIL HOUSE

### **Panel Members Present**

Councillor M. Nazir (Chair)  
Councillor S. Craddock  
Councillor C. Creaney  
Councillor S. Cooper  
Councillor K. Ferguson  
Councillor L. Rattigan  
Councillor L. Jeavons

### **Portfolio Holder**

Councillor M. Arif – Shared Services and Procurement  
Councillor L. Harrison – Clean and Green  
Councillor C. Towe – Learning, Skills and Apprenticeships

### **Officers Present**

Rory Borealis – Executive Director (Resources)  
Craig Goodall – Committee Business and Governance  
Manager

### **01/15 APOLOGIES**

Apologies for absence were received on behalf of Councillor I. Shires.

### **02/15 SUBSTITUTIONS**

There were no substitutions for the duration of the meeting.

### **03/15 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST AND PARTY WHIP**

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

### **04/15 LOCAL GOVERNMENT (ACCESS TO INFORMATION) ACT 1985 (AS AMENDED)**

There were no agenda items that required the exclusion of the public.

### **05/15 REVIEW OF OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY IN WALSALL**

The Committee considered the findings and recommendations of a review of scrutiny undertaken by Professor Steve Leach. The report included details on the scrutiny committee structure and remits of committees (annexed).

The Chair reported on the new scrutiny structure appointed by Council following the Leach review. He was supportive of its findings and emphasised the importance of implementing its recommendations. He highlighted the very broad and strategic remit the committee had focussed on the Councils strategic priorities. Due to this broad remit the committee's business would have to be strongly managed. He supported the creation of working groups to consider issues in depth.

The Executive Director (Resources) highlighted further sections of the report focusing on changes to the way Members selected items and creating changes to the environment at committee meetings to create a different atmosphere more suitable to holding others to account. He noted that the report made a suggestion that scrutiny committees should receive more officer support and explained additional financial resources would be required if this part of the report was to be implemented.

Members of the committee were supportive of the report and its recommendations. In particular Members pushed the importance of training for new and old members alike as a key method of increasing knowledge that could be used to seek continuous improvement in the scrutiny process.

**Resolved:**

**That:**

- 1. Training for new and existing Members be provided on:
  - a. Scrutiny good practice;**
  - b. How the Council is structured including key contacts.****
- 2. The Leach Review be noted.**

## **06/15 AREAS OF FOCUS 2015/16**

The Chair proposed that this item be deferred to a special meeting so that presentations from the Executive Directors for Resources and Economy and Environment could be heard together.

A Member suggested that the committee should consider waste collection.

**Resolved:**

**That:**

- 1. The item be deferred to a special meeting;**
- 2. Waste collection be considered as a potential area of focus for 2015/16.**

**495/14 DATE OF NEXT MEETING**

The Chair announced there would be a special meeting on 27 July 2015. The meeting would consider areas of focus for 2015/16 and two petitions.

The meeting terminated at 6.34 p.m.

Chair: .....

Date:.....