

Overview and Scrutiny Committee

Wednesday, 7th April, 2010

MINUTES

Present:

Councillor Phil Mould (Chair), and Councillors K Banks, G Chance, R King, W Norton and J Pearce

Also Present:

Councillor C Gandy

Officers:

J Staniland

Committee Services Officer:

J Bayley and A Scarce

Relevant Extract from the meeting of the Overview and Scrutiny Committee on 7th April 2010 when the subject of the Work Programme Planning Event was discussed.

Minute 225: THE OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY WORK PROGRAMME PLANNING EVENT 2010/11

The Committee was advised that it should plan collectively for the Scrutiny Work Programme Planning Event and it would be helpful if Members could identify suitable dates as early as possible.

Members discussed the following potential topics that could be included on the agenda for the event:

a) The Budget Setting Process:

The Committee agreed that it might be useful to invite a senior Financial Services Officer to attend the event alongside members of the Executive Committee. A full and frank discussion could then be undertaken regarding ways in which the Overview and Scrutiny Committee could realistically contribute to the budget setting process in a constructive manner.

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Chair

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b) Communications

Members commented that it might be appropriate to invite an Officer from the Council's Communications Team to attend the event. This Officer could help to advise Members about ways to increase public awareness and engagement with the scrutiny process.

c) Portfolio Holder Annual Reports

To address one of the weaker elements of the scrutiny process identified in the committee's Annual Report it was noted that the subject of Portfolio holder Annual Reports could be discussed with members of the Executive Committee during the course of the event.

d) Topics for Scrutiny 2010/11

A primary aim of the event would be to discuss and identify topics that could potentially form the focus of policy review and development work during the course of the year.

Members also discussed scrutiny related training opportunities. They agreed that it would not be suitable to suggest this for inclusion on the event's agenda as it could elongate the process and distract attention from planning the Work Programme for the year. However, they agreed that, due to the minimal funding available to support individual Councillors' training requirement in house training events provided a greater opportunity for Members to attend.

The Committee felt that the final programme for the event should be agreed by the new membership of the Overview and Scrutiny Committee in the 2010/11 municipal year. They therefore concurred that their suggestions should be noted for consideration at the first meeting of the Committee in 2010/11.

RESOLVED that

- 1) the agenda for the Work Programme Planning event be considered in further detail at the meeting of the Overview and Scrutiny Committee on 2nd June 2010; and**
- 2) the report be noted.**