

**At a meeting of the SCRUTINY COMMITTEE held in the CIVIC CENTRE on THURSDAY, 11<sup>th</sup> JULY, 2013 at 5.30 p.m.**

**Present:-**

Councillor Tate in the Chair

Councillors Bonallie, Howe, Kay, T. Martin, and N. Wright.

**Also Present:-**

Councillor Pat Smith – Portfolio Holder for Children’s Services  
Councillor Harry Trueman – Deputy Leader

**Apologies for Absence**

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors Shattock and Waller.

**Minutes of the last Meeting of the Committee held on 13<sup>th</sup> June, 2013**

1. RESOLVED that the minutes of the last ordinary meeting of the Scrutiny Committee held on 13<sup>th</sup> June 2013 (copy circulated), be confirmed and signed as a correct record.

**Declarations of Interest (including Whipping Declarations)**

There were no declarations of interest made.

**Scrutiny Policy Reviews 2012/13: Response from Cabinet 19<sup>th</sup> June 2013**

The Chief Executive submitted a report (copy circulated) providing feedback from the Cabinet meeting held on 19<sup>th</sup> June 2013, regarding two of the second round of Scrutiny Policy Reviews undertaken during 2012/13. It was anticipated that the ‘Delivery of Apprenticeships’ Policy Review undertaken by the Skills, Economy and Regeneration Scrutiny Panel referred to in the report included in the agenda (and subsequently amended) would be considered by the Scrutiny Committee at its September meeting.

(For copy report – see original minutes).

Ms Helen Lancaster introduced the report advising that proposed actions to be taken on each of the Policy Reviews and progress on delivering those actions was detailed in appendices 1-2 of the amended report.

Members of the Cabinet had been invited to attend for this item of business and brief the Committee on Cabinet’s consideration of the policy reviews and how they

intended to deliver the recommendations of each of the policy reviews of the Scrutiny Panels which came under their Cabinet portfolio responsibility as follows:-

<b>Scrutiny Panel</b>	<b>Policy Review</b>	<b>Portfolio Holder</b>
Children, Young People and Learning	Increasing Young People's Involvement in Service Design and Delivery	Cllr P. Smith
Responsive Services and Customer Care	Domestic Violence	Cllr H. Trueman

Councillor Tate, Chairman of the Scrutiny Committee, welcomed Councillor Smith and Councillor Trueman to the meeting, together with Keith Moore, Executive Director of Children's Services and Stuart Douglas, Lead Policy for Community Safety.

The Cabinet Members welcomed the opportunity to attend the meeting, provide feedback and answer questions asked by Members of the Scrutiny Committee. Once they had presented their feedback and answered questions and comments from Members, Councillors Smith and Trueman left the meeting.

Councillor T. Martin referred to recommendation (c) of the Domestic Violence Review ('that the Safer Sunderland Partnership reviews how domestic violence crime is reported to ward Councillors and local people in community forums'). He stated that it would also be useful if ward Councillors could be provided with signposting information to assist residents who approach their local councillor in relation to domestic violence issues. Rhiannon Hood, Assistant Head of Law and Governance suggested that this was something that could be addressed through the Members Ward Bulletin Service.

2. RESOLVED that :-

- i) the proposed actions detailed within the Action Plans appended to the report be noted, and
- ii) each Action Plan be referred to the appropriate Scrutiny Panel for further consideration

### **Reference from Cabinet 19 June 2013 – Revenue Budget Outturn for 2012/13 and First Revenue review 2013/14**

The Head of Law and Governance submitted a report (copy circulated) which set out for advice and consideration of the Committee, an aspect of the report on the Revenue Budget Outturn 2012/2013 and the First Revenue Budget Review 2013/2014, namely requesting the Council to approve the transfer of funds.

(For copy report – see original minutes).

Malcolm Page, Executive Director of Commercial and Corporate Services referred to the positive position the Council was in at end of year with a managed surplus of just over £6m which the Cabinet was proposing to transfer to the Strategic Investment Reserve to support one off transitional costs from the implementation of budget savings proposals in 2013/2014 and future years.

Consideration having been given to the report, it was: -

3. RESOLVED that the Council be advised that the Scrutiny Committee supported the Cabinet recommendation to approve the virement and recognised the positive outturn on the budget for 2012/2013 that would assist the Council with the implementation of budget savings proposals in 2013/2014 and future years.

### **Reference from Cabinet – 19 June 2013 – Capital Programme Outturn 2012/13 and First Capital Review 2013/2014 (including Treasury Management)**

The Head of Law and Governance submitted a report (copy circulated) which set out for advice and consideration of the Committee, an aspect of the report on the Capital Programme Outturn 2012/13 and the First Review 2013/2014 (including Treasury Management), namely requesting the Council to approve the variations in the Capital Programme for both years to include additional schemes with an estimated cost in excess of £250,000.

(For copy report – see original minutes).

Malcolm Page, Executive Director of Commercial and Corporate Services referred Members to Appendix A which set out the relevant extract from the Cabinet report and which outlined the additional schemes with an estimated cost in excess of £250,000.

Mr. Page have addressed questions and comments from members in relation to equal pay capitalisation, phase 2 of the Sea Front Strategy and the redevelopment of the Crowtree Leisure Centre it was:-

4. RESOLVED that the Council be advised that the Scrutiny Committee supported the Cabinet's recommendation to Council to approve the proposed variation to the Capital Programme for 2012/2013 and 2013/2014 to include the additional schemes with an estimated cost in excess of £250,000 as set out in the extract of the report.

### **Public Health, Wellness and Culture Scrutiny Panel Policy Review – Roles, Relationships and Adding Value**

The Lead Scrutiny Member for Public Health Wellness and Culture submitted a report (copy circulated), which described the outcome of a review which considered the roles and relationships of health bodies within the new structures and the development of a partnership protocol which would help clarify roles

(For copy report – see original minutes).

Karen Brown, Scrutiny Officer, together with Councillor Howe, Lead Scrutiny Member for Public Health Wellness and Culture having briefed the Committee on the development of the draft protocol and the consultation process with all signatories, it was:-

5. RESOLVED that the Health Protocol be endorsed for referral to the Health and Wellbeing Board.

## **Notice of Key Decisions**

The Chief Executive submitted a report (copy circulated) providing Members with an opportunity to consider those items on the Executive's Notice of Key Decisions for the 28 day period from 18 June 2013.

(For copy report – see original minutes).

The Chairman asked any Members having issues to raise or requiring further detail on any of the items included in the notice, to contact the Scrutiny Co-ordinator, Helen Lancaster for initial assistance.

6. RESOLVED that the Notice of Key Decisions as detailed above be received and noted.

## **Annual Work Programme 2012/13**

The Chief Executive submitted a report (copy circulated) attaching for Members' information, the work programme for the Committee's work being undertaken during the 2013/14 council year.

(For copy report – see original minutes).

7. RESOLVED that the information contained in the work programme be received and noted.

## **Lead Scrutiny Member Update: July 2013**

The Lead Scrutiny Members submitted a joint report (copy circulated) providing an update to the Scrutiny Committee regarding the work of each of the six Lead Scrutiny Members and supporting Panels together with the nomination of Councillor Bob Francis to the membership of the Children's Services Scrutiny Panel.

(For copy report – see original minutes).

The Committee received an update from those Lead Scrutiny Members present on the work that had been carried out to date by the Scrutiny Panels, together with a briefing from the Chairman on the Centre for Public Scrutiny's 10<sup>th</sup> Annual Conference held at Local Government House, Westminster on 11/12 June, 2013.

Full consideration having been given to the report it was:-

8. RESOLVED that :-

- i) the update of the Lead Scrutiny Members be received and noted; and
- ii) the appointment of Councillor Bob Francis to serve on the Children's Services Scrutiny Panel be approved.

The Chairman then closed the meeting having thanked Members and Officers for their attendance and contributions to the meeting.

(Signed) R.D. TATE,  
Chairman.