

POLICY SCRUTINY PANEL

6th February, 2007

Present: Cllr. Simmons (in the Chair) and Councillors Cowper, Freeman, Hepplewhite, Norman, Walker and Wynn.

Also Present: Councillors: Kellett, Lightley, Marsden, Southwell and Turnbull.

Apologies for Absence: Apologies were received from Councillors Syer and Gill.

Bullet Points from the Meeting held on 10th January, 2007.

The Bullet Points from the Meeting held on 10th January, 2007, were approved as a correct record.

Members Information

In a response to a previous request from the Panel, regarding information relating to increased costs of the Swimming Pool project, the Portfolio Holder for Finance attended the meeting in order to circulate the information previously requested. There being no questions, the Chairman thanked the Portfolio Holder for his attendance and Cllr. Southwell left the meeting.

BULLET POINTS

Working with Parish Councils – Consideration of Draft Report

- The Panel gave further consideration to the Draft Report.
- It was felt that the Report should be considered as an Interim Document to be used as a basis for future working with Parish Councils and that the text be amended to reflect this.
- It was agreed that, subject to the appropriate amendments being made, the Report be forwarded to the Scrutiny Committee for consideration.

Telephone Communications System – Draft Update Report

- The Panel considered the Draft Update Report on the Telephone Communications System and suggested certain amendments to the Draft Recommendations.
- Members noted that anecdotal evidence seemed to suggest that progress had been made and that the system was improving.
- Members asked that the Head of Community Services be requested to attend the Panel Meeting on 3rd. April, 2007, to advise the Panel of further progress made.
- It was agreed that, subject to the appropriate amendments being made, the Report be forwarded to the Scrutiny Committee for consideration.

Sickness Absence – Report of Review

- The Panel considered the Draft Report of the Review
- Members noted that the Staff Attitude Survey, which the Panel had previously requested to be carried out in April, 2006, had still not been done.

- It was agreed that the Head of HR be requested to carry out the Staff Attitude Survey before June, 2007, and report back to the Panel Meeting in June, 2007, to advise Members of the results and of the progress made in the reduction of the Council's Sickness Absence levels.
- It was further agreed that, subject to the appropriate amendments being made to the Draft Recommendations, the Report be forwarded to the Scrutiny Committee for consideration.

The Meeting Terminated at 6.25 pm.