

DURHAM COUNTY COUNCIL

OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY MANAGEMENT BOARD

At a Meeting of **Overview and Scrutiny Management Board** held in Committee Room 2, County Hall, Durham on **Tuesday 16 June 2015 at 9.30 am**

Present:

Councillor J Armstrong (Chairman)

Members of the Committee:

Councillors P Stradling, E Adam, A Batey, D Boyes, K Corrigan, R Crute, S Forster, B Graham, J Hillary, A Hopgood, P Lawton, J Lethbridge, M Nicholls, L Pounder, M Simmons and J Turnbull.

Prior to the commencement of business, the Chairman reported the death of the Vice-Chairman of Durham County Council and Board Member, Councillor Robin Todd. Members stood for a moments silence as a mark of respect.

The Chairman welcomed new members, Councillors E Adam, H Bennett, S Forster, J Hillary and M Nicholls to the Board.

1 Apologies for Absence

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors R Bell, T Nearney, C Potts, A Shield and S Wilson.

2 Substitute Members

There were no substitute members.

3 Minutes

The minutes of the meeting held on the 20 March 2015 were confirmed as a correct record and signed by the Chairman.

The Head of Planning and Performance referred to Item 5 of the minutes of the meeting held on the 20 March regarding zero hour contracts and apprenticeships and advised that the issue had been linked into Economy and Enterprise Committee work programme.

Referring to information requested on shoplifting, food and clothes bank data, the Head of Planning and Performance advised that the information had been provided to members.

4 Declarations of interest

There were no declarations of interest.

5 Update on the Delivery of the Medium Term Financial Plan 4

The Board considered a report of the Assistant Chief Executive that provided confirmation that the 2014/15 to 2015/16 Medium Term Financial Plan (MTFP 4) had been successfully delivered (for copy see file of minutes).

The Head of Policy and Communications reported that just over £23m savings had been delivered for 2014/15 which amounts to over £136m of savings since 2011 that forms part of the overall savings target for the period from 2011/12 to 2018/19 of around £250m. Feedback from the consultation would be reported to Cabinet in July.

In response to questions from Councillor E Adam regarding the ER/VR figures and salary protection scheme, the Head of Policy and Communication confirmed that the ER/VR figures had taken into account 391 employees that had found alternative employment through the Council's redeployment process. He explained that employees that accept a position through the redeployment scheme would accept the new salary and would not be protected, however employees that had gone through restructure would be salary protected for 2 years.

The Head of Policy and Communication responded to questions from Councillor J Hillary regarding redeployment and figures on staff that had left the Authority. He explained that recruitment would only be carried out if there was a business case. The redeployment register would be considered first, if there were no suitable applicants then the position would be advertised internally and then externally. Figures on staff that had left the Authority would be provided after the meeting.

Resolved:

That the information contained in the report and the progress being made in delivering the MTFP4 be noted.

6 County Durham Partnership Update

The Board considered a report of the Assistant Chief Executive that provided an update on issues being addressed by the County Durham Partnership (CDP) including key issues from the Board, the five Thematic Partnerships and all Area Action Partnerships (AAPs). The report also included updates on other key initiatives being carried out in partnership across the County (for copy see file of minutes).

The Principal Partnerships and Local Councils Officer highlighted priorities and key areas of focus carried out within the County Partnership in recent months.

Members were informed that in total over £5m in funding bids had been successfully which would support a wide range of initiatives across the County. Town and Parish

Councils had secured funding of £90,000 for clean and green services. Feedback and outcomes would be reported in the next County Durham Partnership Update.

The Chairman highlighted that feedback from the peer challenge indicated that County Durham's Health and Wellbeing Board was in a very strong place and several partner organisations who attended multiple Health and Wellbeing Boards said that Durham was the best Health and Wellbeing Board in the region.

Councillor R Crute referred to the altogether wealthier theme and advised that Economy and Enterprise Scrutiny were focusing on skills development and looking at the scope and quality of apprenticeships across the county and region.

Councillor D Boyes suggested that a directory of partnership organisations that included housing organisations would be useful.

Councillor A Hopgood questioned why many events in Durham, including mini police work, the Countess of Wessex visit, Princess Anne's visit to Durham Police Headquarters, Durham Dash, the Queens award for volunteers had not been mentioned. The Principal Partnerships and Local Councils Officer explained that AAP coordinators were given deadlines for submitting information to be included in the report and it was maybe a timing issue as the information requested was up to the end of March. She added that every AAP would feature somewhere within the report and would take comments back to the Head of Partnerships and Community Engagement.

Resolved:

That the information contained in the report be noted.

7 Quarter 4 2014/15 Performance Management

The Board considered a report of the Assistant Chief Executive that provided an update on progress against the council's corporate basket of performance indicators (PIs) and report other performance issues for the 2014/15 financial year. A presentation was given by the Head of Planning and Performance (for copy of report and slides, see file of minutes).

Councillor J Hillary asked that the targets for each quarter be included alongside the graphs to show what the Council were achieving.

Councillor A Hopgood found the altogether greener performance figures very positive. She referred to adults aged 65 and over being admitted into nursing care and asked if the age range could be looked at in more detail.

Councillor A Batey commented on fly tipping and the possible cross boundary issues with Gateshead Council as it was unknown whether certain incidence were by Durham or Gateshead residents. Councillor B Graham added that CCTV cameras had been installed in 94 locations countywide which would deter offenders and reduce the number of reported incidents.

Councillor D Boyes found the crime figures very encouraging with County Durham having the best results in the North East and top 3% in the Country. He commented on the 476 private properties that had been brought back into use and felt that there was more confidence in the community which was very encouraging.

Resolved:

That the information contained in the report be noted.

8 Notice of Key Decisions

The Board considered a report of the Head of Legal and Democratic Services that provided a list of key decisions that were scheduled to be considered by the Executive (for copy see file of minutes).

The Senior Committee Services Officer reported that since the last update there had been the following movement in items being considered at Cabinet:-

- New to the plan for June - Proposal to enlarge Sherburn Village Primary School and close Sherburn Hill Primary School from 1 September 2015;
- New to the plan for July – Proposed Land Transaction at North Bondgate, Bishop Auckland;
- Proposal on the New Company Business Plan for the Development and Management of Market Housing was scheduled for June, however would now be considered in July.

Resolved:

That the information contained in the report be noted.

9 Overview and Scrutiny Annual Report 2014/15

The Board considered a report of the Assistant Chief Executive that provided information on the work of all the Overview and Scrutiny Committees for 2014/15 for comment and approval prior to its submission to County Council on the 22 July 2015 (for copy see file of minutes).

The Head of Planning and Performance highlighted several key achievements from the scrutiny review activity and scrutiny site visits including:-

- Sunderland City Council's Customer contact centre as part of the Customer First Task and Finish Group review;
- The Heritage Coast;
- Freemans Reach – the Archimedes Screw;
- Woodlands review – 3 community woodland sites at Cassop, Quarrington Hill and Coxhoe;
- Woodlands review – visit to Sunderland Bridge to look at timber extraction;
- Sensory Room at Spennymoor Leisure Centre;
- Durham Constabulary Police HQ;

- County Durham & Darlington Fire and Rescue Service HQ;
- Durham Community Fire Station;
- Comeleon House, Tanfield Lea to look at ICT systems.

Resolved:

That the report be approved and be presented to County Council on the 22 July 2015.

10 Update in relation to Petitions

The Board considered a report of the Head of Legal and Democratic Services that provided an update on the current situation regarding various petitions received by the Authority (for copy see file of minutes).

The Senior Committee Services Officer reported that since the last update, 3 new paper petitions had been received and 11 had completed the process. She added that there were no live petition on the council's website.

Resolved:

That the information contained in the report be noted.

11 Recruitment of Non-voting co-optee for Economy and Enterprise Overview and Scrutiny Committee

The Board considered a report of the Assistant Chief Executive that informs members of a non-voting co-optee vacancy that has arisen for the Economy and Enterprise Overview and Scrutiny Committee and propose a way forward to appoint to the vacancy (for copy see file on minutes).

Resolved:

That the information contained in the report be noted and the proposal to fill the vacancy be agreed.

12 Information update from the Chairs of the Overview and Scrutiny Committees

The Board considered a report of the Assistant Chief Executive that provided an update of overview and scrutiny activity from 9 March 2015 to 4 June 2015 (for copy see file of minutes).

Resolved:

That the information contained in the report be noted.