

BUDGET SCRUTINY COMMITTEE

Minutes of a meeting of the Budget Scrutiny Committee of the Bolsover District Council held in Chamber Suites 1 and 2, The Arc, Clowne, on Wednesday 4th March 2015 at 1200 noon.

PRESENT:-

Members:-

Councillor K. Bowman in the Chair

Councillors T. Connerton, M.J. Dooley, S.W. Fritchley, H. J. Gilmour, V.P. Mills, J.E. Smith and E. Watts

Officers:-

B. Mason (Executive Director – Operations) and A. Bluff (Governance Officer).

0902. APOLOGIES

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors J.A. Clifton, D. McGregor and S. Wallis.

0903. URGENT ITEMS OF BUSINESS

There were no urgent items of business.

0904. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

There were no declarations of interest.

0905. MINUTES – 22ND JANUARY 2015

Moved by Councillor G. Parkin and seconded by Councillor M.J. Dooley

RESOLVED that the minutes of a meeting of the Scrutiny Management Board held on 22nd January 2015 be approved as a true and correct record.

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0906. UPDATE FROM SCRUTINY CHAIRS

Sustainable Communities Scrutiny Committee;

Councillor Bowman, Chair of Sustainable Communities Scrutiny Committee, informed the meeting that the Committee's Review of Street Cleanliness had been presented to the Executive on 2nd March 2015. No recommendations had been made by Committee and Executive had accepted the Review.

The Committee's Review of Business Support had also been presented to the Executive who had requested minor amendments be made to one of the recommendations which was in regard to the E-newsletter.

Both of these Reviews were now agreed baseline documents of the Authority.

Improvement Scrutiny Committee;

Councillor Gilmour, Chair of Improvement Scrutiny Committee, informed the meeting that the Committee's Review of Hard to Let Properties had been presented to the Executive on 2nd March 2015. The report had been positively received by Executive and it had been agreed that the recommendations would be pursued and where feasible, implemented at the earliest opportunity.

Unfortunately, some officer comments regarding the Review had been received after the agreed deadline date which potentially affected some of the recommendations made in the Review. The Chair and Vice Chair of Improvement Scrutiny Committee had taken a 15 minute recess from the Executive meeting to discuss the late comments with officers and an agreed solution had been reached under which all recommendations would be further explored and those which could be implemented in a cost effective fashion would be put in place at the earliest opportunity. The Review would be taken back to Executive after a period of three months which would avoid the 'Purdah' period and allow Officers a period of time to begin the process of implementing the recommendations.

Councillor Gilmour added that Improvement Scrutiny Committee had agreed at the start of the Spotlight Review that a more in depth Review was needed and Committee would look at carrying this out in the next Scrutiny year.

A short discussion took place around a range of issues associated with sheltered housing which may form part of the wider Review.

Members raised concern regarding officers not attending Scrutiny Committee meetings when requested to do so by Members. Members stressed the importance of officers attending Scrutiny meetings when required which was noted by the Executive Director.

The Executive Director – Operations noted that the key message to emerge was that Scrutiny had identified some changes to services that would help the Authority's customers and officers were committed to working constructively with Scrutiny Members to implement such changes in order to provide better services to local people.

Councillor Peake left the meeting at this point.

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Safe and Inclusive Scrutiny Committee;

Councillor Dooley, Chair of Safe and Inclusive Scrutiny Committee, informed the meeting that the Committee had devised some questions for a Scrutiny Evaluation Exercise, which had been sent to all Scrutiny Members. Feedback would be provided at the next Safe and Inclusive Scrutiny Committee.

Safe and Inclusive Scrutiny Committee had also carried out a spotlight Review of the Scrutiny web pages on the Council's website on behalf of Improvement Scrutiny Committee with no recommendations being necessary. The website had been updated by way of an additional tab, 'Overview and Scrutiny', which had been added under 'Your Council' and 'Committees', and explained the role of Scrutiny and provided a link to agendas and minutes and also the reports from the last two years' Reviews undertaken by each of the three Scrutiny Committees.

Moved and seconded.

RESOLVED that the updates be received.

The meeting concluded at 1240 hours.