

Contact Officer: Penny Bunker

## KIRKLEES COUNCIL

### OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE

**Monday 13th June 2016**

Present: Councillor Julie Stewart-Turner (Chair)  
Councillor Cahal Burke  
Councillor Gulfam Asif  
Councillor Ken Sims

Apologies:

In attendance:

Observers:

**1 Membership of Committee**

All members of the Committee were present.

**2 Minutes of Previous Meeting**

The Committee considered the minutes of the meeting of the Committee held on 25 April 2016.

**RESOLVED** – That the minutes of the meeting of the Committee held on 25 April 2016 be approved as a correct record.

**3 Interests**

There were no interests declared.

**4 Re-appointment of Scrutiny Co-optees**

The Management Committee considered a report which requested the reappointment of all existing scrutiny co-optees for the 2016-17 municipal year.

It was reported at the meeting that since the report had been produced, John Briggs, a longstanding scrutiny co-optee had tendered his resignation due to other commitments. The Committee resolved to thank Mr Briggs for his contributions during his time as a voluntary Scrutiny Co-optee.

**RESOLVED –**

(1) That the resignation of John Briggs as a Scrutiny Co-optee be noted. That Mr Briggs be thanked for his contribution to the work of Scrutiny as a Co-optee for the last 4 years.

(2) That the Co-optees be reappointed for a further year as set out in paragraph 2.2 of the report.

**5 Approach to Overview and Scrutiny**

Councillor Stewart-Turner, Chair of Overview and Scrutiny led a discussion on the approach to overview and scrutiny for the coming municipal year.

Councillor Stewart-Turner emphasised that one of the underpinning principals of scrutiny in Kirklees was to leave the party politics at the door. The Management Committee had to work together as a cohesive team to maximise the impact of Scrutiny.

Councillor Stewart-Turner explained that each member of the Management Committee would be allocated a portfolio of responsibility and would be expected to arrange briefings with Cabinet members and Senior Officers to maintain and overview of the portfolio. Members would be asked to report back to the Management Committee so that a collective decision could be taken if any particular issue needed to be brought for formal discussion at management committee or to be considered for the establishment of an ad-hoc scrutiny panel. Councillor Stewart-Turner suggested that for this year portfolios should look to focus on key themes and corporate priorities rather than being Directorate based. It was agreed that until the position regarding Cabinet was clearer it would be difficult to finalise scrutiny portfolios.

Councillor Burke indicated that his preference would be to continue with the Children and Young Peoples Directorate portfolio. Councillor Sims expressed interest in the Place portfolio. Councillor Stewart-Turner highlighted broader theme work of an intervention and preventive, economic resilience, health and well-being and devolution.

Councillor Stewart-Turner indicated the importance of using performance management information as part of discussions. The Chief Executive had also indicated that an outline forward plan of decisions to be taken through the year would also be provide to enable scrutiny to plan pre-scrutiny work on key issues.

There followed a discussion on the allocation of portfolios and it was agreed that Councillor Ken Sims would cover the Place portfolio including maintaining an overview of the local plan. Councillor Asif would take responsibility for overview of housing issues and the resources portfolio. Councillor Stewart-Turner emphasised the importance of the Children's Services portfolio as there was considerable development work going on within the service. It was important that the portfolio holder did not seek to duplicate the work that was currently being undertaken by the ad-hoc Scrutiny Panel. Councillor Stewart-Turner would meet with the Leader of the Council and look at issues relating to new Council, devolution and areas covered by the Communities Transformation and Change directorate.

Once the position regarding cabinet members and their portfolios was clear, the Management Committee would revisit portfolios to ensure that no changes were required.

**RESOLVED –**

(1) That the approach to Overview and Scrutiny in Kirklees be noted, in particular the non-party political approach the portfolio approach and the collaborative role of OSMC members in identifying areas for scrutiny.

(2) That the Governance Officer provides details of the portfolios agreed at the meeting together with the officer support arrangements to set up meetings with Directors, Assistant Directors and Cabinet Members as appropriate.

**6 OSMC Work Programme**

The Management Committee considered a draft of a proposed work programme for the 2016/17 municipal year.

Within the discussion the following issues were identified;

- The Management Committee needed to receive an overview of the local plan and future projects timetables.
- That the statutory scrutiny area of flood risk management be included within Cllr Sims portfolio but subject to formal discussions at the Management Committee meeting.
- More specific information is required regarding the housing futures item to identify potential areas of focus.
- Place strategy – pre-scrutiny work to be undertaken in July 2016.
- Continuing to monitor previous recommendations, accepting that some recommendations had been signed off as complete and should not be re-visited.
- Criteria for District Committee funding to be considered on 4 July 2016.
- To re-introduce overview of major consultations and legislative changes.

**RESOLVED -**

(1) That the areas suggested for inclusion in the 2016/17 Scrutiny work programme be approved.

**7 Schedule of Meetings**

The Management Committee considered arrangements for meetings for the remained of the municipal year. It was agreed that the first meeting in January be held on the 6 January rather than the 3 January 2017 as originally proposed.

**RESOLVED -**

(1) That meetings of Management Committee be held on the following dates;

13 June 2016

4 July 2016

25 July 2016

5 September 2016

26 September 2016

17 October 2016

## **Overview and Scrutiny Management Committee - 13 June 2016**

7 November 2016  
28 November 2016  
6 January 2017  
23 January 2017  
13 February 2017  
6 March 2017  
27 March 2017  
24 April 2017

(2) All meetings to start at 9.30am in Huddersfield Town Hall.