

Contact Officer: Penny Bunker

KIRKLEES COUNCIL

OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE

Friday 15th June 2018

Present: Councillor Julie Stewart-Turner (Chair)
Councillor Cahal Burke
Councillor Elizabeth Smaje
Councillor Rob Walker

Apologies: Councillor Gulfam Asif

3 Minutes of Previous Meeting

The minutes of the meeting held on 13 April 2018 were agreed as a correct record.

4 Interests

No interests were declared.

5 Admission of the Public

It was agreed that all items would be considered in public session.

6 Ways of Working 2018/19

The Management Committee considered an updated version of the guidance on the approach to Overview and Scrutiny for use during the 2018/19 municipal year.

Councillor Stewart-Turner asked that all lead members ensure that the guidance is taken to panels to act as a refresher around the role of Scrutiny and expectations on behaviour and approach to Scrutiny work.

In addition to the guidance, aspects of the lead member role had been pulled into an addendum to set out what scrutiny lead members were responsible for. Those present agreed that it would be helpful for panel members to see what the role of the lead members was as well as the more general guidance. It was further suggested that included within the lead member responsibilities should be a requirement to maintain standards within scrutiny panels.

RESOLVED –

That subject to the amendment to the lead member responsibilities, the ways of working documents be considered by all Scrutiny Panels.

7 Allocation of Scrutiny Co-optees 2018/19

The Scrutiny Management Committee considered the allocation of Scrutiny Co-optees within the Scrutiny structure for the 2018/19 municipal year.

The panel noted that since the report had been produced Sharon Taylor, Co-optee on the Health and Adult Social Care Scrutiny Panel had resigned due to personal reasons. The Committee wished to record its thanks to Mrs Taylor for her contribution to the work of Scrutiny in Kirklees.

The report proposed the following allocations;

Peter Bradshaw – Health and Adult Social Care Scrutiny Panel
Fatima Shah-Khan - Children’s Scrutiny Panel
Dale O’Neill - Children’s Scrutiny Panel
David Rigby - Health and Adult Social Care Scrutiny Panel
Mark Mercer – Economy and Neighbourhoods Scrutiny Panel
Linda Summers – Corporate Scrutiny Panel
Philip Chaloner - Corporate Scrutiny Panel
Kimberley Stock – Ad-Hoc Scrutiny Panel – Elective Home Education
Rosa Vella – Scrutiny Pool.

It was noted that Councillor Stewart-Turner discussed the work of the Co-optees with the Leadership and it was suggested that a voluntary network in North Kirklees be approached to fill the vacancy currently on the Economy and Neighbourhoods Scrutiny Panel.

The Committee commended the contribution of the Co-optees to scrutiny work in Kirklees. It was agreed that a recruitment campaign to refresh the Co-optee pool should start in September 2018. In addition the Committee agreed that the diocese and Governing Bodies should be approached to seek nominations for statutory Co-optees for the Children’s Scrutiny Panel.

RESOLVED -

- 1) That Mrs S Taylor be thanked for all her work as a co-optee on the Health and Adult Social Care Scrutiny Panel.
- 2) That the allocation of co-optees, as set out in section 2.1 of the report, be approved.
- 3) That a voluntary co-optee recruitment campaign commence in September 2018.
- 4) That Governing Bodies and the Diocese be contacted to seek statutory co-optee nominations.

8 Re-establishment of Ad Hoc Scrutiny Panel

The Management Committee considered a request to re-establish the Ad Hoc Scrutiny Panel into Elective Home Education in order for it to complete the work it had started towards the end of the 2017/18 municipal year.

A report set out the terms of reference for the Ad Hoc Panel and detailed the progress to date. Panel members were Councillor Cahal Burke, Councillor Habiban Zaman, Councillor Lisa Holmes and Kimberley Stocks. In March 2018 the panel had started its work by considering a number of briefing papers around the duties that Local Authorities have in respect of children who are home educated. The intention of the panel was to meet with some parents who home educate their children. It was also intended to look at access to exams for home educated children and the current Kirklees Policy relating to Elective Home Education.

The Management Committee recognised the importance of completing the piece of work and agreed to re-establish the Ad Hoc Scrutiny Panel. It was noted that the Education Select Committee was also starting to look at the issue.

RESOLVED -

That the Elective Home Education Ad Hoc Scrutiny Panel be reappointed to complete its work in the 2018/19 municipal year.

9 Draft Scrutiny Work Programme

The Scrutiny Management Committee considered an initial draft of the Scrutiny Work Programme for the 2018/19 Municipal year. It was noted that following discussions at the Committee, Lead Members would take the potential list of items into panels for further consideration. The Management Committee considered each of the programme areas for Scrutiny Panels and Lead Members commented on the potential issues. It was noted in the Economy and Neighbourhoods Panel, housing work had been rolled forward from the previous year and one of the top priorities for the year was looking at the economic and skills strategies.

In respect of the Children's panel, Councillor Burke reported that due to urgent pre scrutiny issues, the panel had already held one meeting in the current municipal year. It had started to look at its priorities for the year ahead and would pick up on the issues identified in the draft programme. Councillor Burke said the panel were keen to do more visits to look at service provision first hand.

In respect of the Health and Adult Social Care Scrutiny Panel, Councillor Liz Smaje took the Management Committee through the draft programme. Councillor Smaje also highlighted that within the joint health scrutiny work the issues on a West Yorkshire level were starting to develop and the panel would be keeping a close eye on them. Councillor Stewart-Turner thanked Councillor Smaje for the work that the joint Health and Overview Scrutiny Committee had undertaken in looking at the Calderdale and Huddersfield Health proposals and the outcomes of the referral to the Secretary of State. Councillor Smaje explained that the joint committee would be meeting shortly to look at the next steps following the recommendations of the Secretary of State.

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Councillor Stewart-Turner outlined the issues identified for the Scrutiny Management Committee and suggested that the scrutiny of crime and disorder discussion should focus on domestic violence. It had been suggested that the committee may wish to look at the safety camera partnership and Councillor Stewart-Turner was awaiting further information on that issue.

Since the Management Committee had last met two suggested areas for Scrutiny had been referred. The first concerned the relocation of the EFA Assessment Centre. Councillor Stewart-Turner was waiting for further information concerning the current position of this issue before the committee could reach any decisions about whether it was an appropriate area of scrutiny. In addition Councillor Martyn Bolt had suggested SEN support was an issue that Scrutiny should be considering as it had been raised by a number of members of the public. Councillor Burke was asked to consider the request and identify the areas of SEN support that were already within the Children's Scrutiny Panel work programme.

RESOLVED –

- 1) That the draft work programme be noted and forwarded for consideration as part of scrutiny panel work programme discussions.
- 2) That following Panel consideration the proposed work programmes are submitted to OSMC for approval.

10 Scrutiny Communications

The Management Committee continued to consider the approach to communication of scrutiny activity in 2018/19.

Penny Bunker, Governance and Democratic Engagement Manager updated the committee on work that had been undertaken since the last meeting. It was noted that the scrutiny Twitter account was now active to promote issues that scrutiny was looking at. It was suggested that at the end of every scrutiny meeting communications was considered.

It was noted that work was on going in developing a webpage to include more general information on Scrutiny.

There followed a discussion on scrutiny updates at the council meeting. It was decided that it would be appropriate to update on previous scrutiny investigations, such as adult mental health assessment. It was also agreed that sharing of work programmes, with lead members highlighting a couple key issues would also be appropriate.

Councillor Stewart-Turner reported back on her visit to the Council Management Group which had requested that scrutiny bulletins include a little more detail. It was suggested that this might be achieved by including additional links that took the reader to the more detailed information if they wish to consider it.

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Management Committee welcomed the update and agreed that scrutiny needed to be more proactive in sharing information with Councillors to try to get them along to meetings where relevant issues were being considered.

RESOLVED -

- 1) That the update on proposals for Scrutiny communications be noted.
- 2) That at the July meeting of Council, the Chair of Scrutiny and Lead Members provide an update on a couple of issues from work programmes for 2018/19.
- 3) That Councillor Smaje provide an update to Council on joint health scrutiny committee work.

11 Committee meeting dates 2018/19

The management Committee considered dates for future meetings during the 2018/19 Municipal year. In addition the committee agreed arrangements including scheduling Lead Member reports.

RESOLVED -

- 1) That meetings of the Overview and Scrutiny Management Committee be held on the following dates at 10.00 a.m.
 - 16 July 18
 - 3 September
 - 5 November
 - 7 January 19
 - 4 March
 - 15 April
- 2) That Panel Lead Member update reports be considered on the following dates:
 - 3 September
 - 7 January
 - 15 April