

AUDIT AND RESOURCES OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY COMMITTEE

Minutes of the meeting held on Tuesday 8 June 2004 at the Town Hall, Royal Leamington Spa at 6.00 p.m.

PRESENT: Councillors Ashford, Coker, Ms De-Lara-Bond, Holland, Kirton, Mrs Knight, Mrs Sawdon and Shilton.

ALSO PRESENT: Councillor Crowther (Portfolio Holder for Corporate and Strategic Leadership)

(Councillor Coker substituted for Councillor Caborn and Councillor Shilton substituted for Councillor Davis).

65. APPOINTMENT OF CHAIRMAN

RESOLVED that Councillor Caborn be appointed Chairman of the Committee for the ensuing year.

66. APPOINTMENT OF A CHAIRMAN FOR THE MEETING

RESOLVED that Councillor Pratt be elected Chairman for the meeting.

67. MINUTES

The minutes of the meetings of the Committee held on 3 March 2004 and 1 April 2004 were taken as read and signed by the Chairman as a correct record.

68. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

There were no declarations of interest.

69. SCRUTINY ROLE AND METHOD OF OPERATION

The Committee considered a report from Policy and Performance on the future role and method of operation of overview and scrutiny committees, following the work carried out by the Scrutiny Chairmen with the Corporate Management Team at their away day, and, the discussions at subsequent joint meetings (supported by the feedback from the CPA Peer Assessment Team).

In response to the feedback from the Peer Assessment Team and the Committee's own consideration of future ways of working, research had been carried out amongst local authorities who were said to be good at overview and scrutiny, although this had revealed that they were not doing things very different to Warwick District Council.

Warwickshire County Council had adopted a set of approaches to scrutiny which were set out as an appendix to the report.

AUDIT AND RESOURCES OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY COMMITTEE

(Continued)

A suggested work plan for the Committee which showed the suggested approach to each item, was circulated with the report.

RESOLVED that

- (1) the work plan and approach to each of the Scrutiny topics be approved;
- (2) that a sub group consisting of Councillors Kirton, Mrs Sawdon, Ms De-Lara-Bond with Mrs Knight Charing, be formed to look at value for money of the Regenesi and SRB project plans; and
- (3) that members of this Committee receive training in scrutinising of performance, speed reading and understanding the financial framework.

70. INTERNAL AUDIT PROGRESS REPORT 2003/2004 – QUARTER 4.

The Committee considered the report from Finance detailing the Internal Audit Progress Report 2003/2004 for Quarter 4. The report advised members of progress towards achieving the Internal Audit Plan 2003/2004 and the recommendations arising from the audits undertaken in the fourth quarter. A summary of the internal audit reviews carried out during 2003/2004 was circulated with the report.

RECOMMENDED that the Committee receives a report on the Freedom of Information Act after it comes into force on 1 January 2005.

71. INTERNAL AUDIT ASSESSMENT OF THE COUNCIL'S SYSTEMS OF INTERNAL CONTROL

The Committee considered a report from Finance detailing the Internal Audit Assessment of the Council's systems of internal control for 2003/04. The purpose of this report was to enable members to confirm the adequacy, or otherwise, of the Council's systems of internal control, as assessed by Internal Audit, for financial year 2003/2004.

RECOMMENDED that

- (1) the adequacy of the systems of internal control within the Council for the financial year 2003/2004 be confirmed;
- (2) the relevant Portfolio Holder be invited to attend a meeting of this Committee to assure members of the cleanliness of public conveniences within the District; and

AUDIT AND RESOURCES OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY COMMITTEE
(Continued)

- (3) the Economic Overview and Scrutiny Committee be asked if there are adequate measures in place to ensure the cleanliness of public conveniences within the District.

72. PERFORMANCE MANAGEMENT – FULL YEAR RESULTS

The Committee considered a report from the Corporate and Strategic Leadership Portfolio Holder detailing the performance management full year results for 2003/2004. The Committee's attention was drawn to appendices 1-4 of the Executive Performance Report which detailed performance against targets for Corporate Strategy Indicators, Best Value Performance Indicators, Residents satisfaction results and BVPI trends over the last 12 months.

RESOLVED that the Executive be asked to consider the following in relation to performance over the last quarter:

- (1) CO31 – the target was being reduced as the original was unrealistic; and
(2) the target for overall satisfaction with the Council (within corporate health) was felt low.

73. EXECUTIVE MEETING – MONDAY, 5 APRIL 2004

The Committee considered the minutes of the Executive meeting held on Monday 5 April 2004.

RECOMMENDED that the minutes be noted.

74. EXECUTIVE AGENDA (NON CONFIDENTIAL ITEMS AND REPORTS)

The Committee considered the items which would be discussed at the meeting of the Executive on 14 June 2004, which came within its remit. As a result, the following comments were made for forwarding to the Executive:

Agenda Item No. 4 - Approval of Accounts 2003/04

The Committee supported the recommendations in the report.

Agenda Item No. 5 - Financial Strategy and Budget and Service Planning Process for 2005/2006

The Committee supported the recommendations in the report.

Agenda Item No. 6 – Risk Management Progress Report

The Committee supported the recommendations in the report.

AUDIT AND RESOURCES OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY COMMITTEE **(Continued)**

Agenda Item No. 12 – Performance Management – Full Year Results 2003/2004 including Resident Satisfaction Results

The Committee supported the recommendations in the report.

Agenda Item No. 17 – The New Community Strategy for Warwick District.

The Committee supported the recommendation in the report.

Agenda Item No. 18 – Spencer Yard and Althorpe Street Schemes, Leamington Old Town.

The Committee supported the recommendation in the report, but questioned the necessity to link the decisions on the two areas within the same scheme because they have different aims, objectives and resource implications.

75. PRESS AND PUBLIC

RESOLVED that under Section 100A of the Local Government Act 1972 the public and press be excluded from the meeting for the following items by reason of the likely disclosure of exempt information within paragraph 9 Schedule 12A of the Local Government Act 1972.

76. EXECUTIVE AGENDA (CONFIDENTIAL ITEMS AND REPORTS)

The Committee considered the confidential items and reports which would be discussed at the meeting of the Executive on 14 June 2004 which came within its remit. As a result, the following comments were made for forwarding to the Executive:-

Agenda Item No. 25 – Kenilworth Town Centre

The Committee supported the recommendation in the report.

Agenda Item No. 26 – Jephsons & Royal Pump Rooms Catering and Management

The Committee supported the recommendations in the report.

(The meeting ended at 8.10 pm)