

JOINT SCRUTINY PANEL

Minutes of a meeting of the Joint Scrutiny Panel of Bolsover District Council (BDC), Chesterfield Borough Council (CBC) and North East Derbyshire District Council (NEDDC) held in Committee Room G, Council Offices, Saltergate, on Tuesday 4th November 2014 at 1400 hours.

PRESENT:-

Members:-

Councillor R. Turner (BDC) in the Chair

Bolsover District Council: -

Councillor R. Heffer

Chesterfield Borough Council: -

Councillors A. Slack and J. Innes

North East Derbyshire District Council :-

Councillor J. Windle

Officers:-

S. Broadhead (Overview and Scrutiny Manager) (NEDDC), A. Cunningham (Policy and Scrutiny Officer) (CBC), C. Millington (Scrutiny Officer) (BDC), J. Williams (Acting Head of Internal Audit) (CBC) and A. Brownsword (Governance Officer) (BDC)

12. APOLOGIES

Apologies for absence were received from Councillor Wallis (BDC) and Councillors Morley and Wright (NEDDC)

13. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

There were no declarations of interest.

14. URGENT ITEMS OF BUSINESS

There were no urgent items of business.

15. MINUTES – 28TH JULY 2014

Moved by Councillor J. Windle and seconded by Councillor J. Innes

RESOLVED that the minutes of a meeting of the Shared Scrutiny Panel be approved as a true and correct record.

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16. MATTERS ARISING

Further to Minute No. 9 – BCN Consultancy (Building Control) Update Report, the Scrutiny Officer informed the meeting that the review into the Derbyshire wide Building control Partnership had only just begun and it was hoped that a report could be provided to the next meeting of the Joint Scrutiny Panel.

RESOLVED that the report be noted.

17. NOTES OF THE JOINT BOARD – 1ST SEPTEMBER 2014

Councillor Slack advised that he had attended the Joint Board to present the Annual report of the Joint Scrutiny Panel. Joint Board had noted the report and acknowledged that the Panel wished to be more proactively engaged with decision making. A discussion took place regarding the timing of the Joint Scrutiny Panel and it was suggested that the meetings of the Joint Scrutiny Panel should be timed to fall before the Joint Board. The Overview and Scrutiny Manager noted that the extra meetings had been timed to fall before the Joint Board meetings and that the Joint Board agenda had been requested. However, papers were only available a week prior to the meeting. The Policy and Scrutiny Officer advised that as Chesterfield BC acted as host for the Joint Board, they would look into the Forward Plan (key decision) notification arrangements for the Joint Board decision making as a way for the Joint Scrutiny Panel to have a more pro-active role.

Members felt that copies of the papers should be made available to the Joint Scrutiny Panel at least two weeks prior to the Joint Board meeting and the Joint Scrutiny Panel meetings would be rearranged for two weeks so that items could be discussed if necessary.

RESOLVED that (1) the notes of the Joint Board be noted,

(2) the dates of the Joint Scrutiny Panel be rearranged to take place two weeks before the Joint Board, and for the Joint Board reports to be discussed at the Joint Scrutiny Panel to enable the Joint Scrutiny Panel to provide comment to the Joint Board.

(Scrutiny Officer, Overview and Scrutiny Manager, Policy and Scrutiny Officer).

18. ANNUAL AUDIT REPORT

The Acting Head of Internal Audit presented the report which gave details of the performance of the Internal Audit Consortium during 2013/14. The biggest change

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this year had been the introduction of procedures to ensure that agreed internal audit recommendations were implemented.

The outturn for the year had shown a surplus of £77k and it would be utilised to retain a working balance, for staff training and development and a contingency for a grading appeal. It was noted that there was only one fully qualified member of staff and that training was to be encouraged.

A procurement exercise was currently underway to appoint an external consultant to review the options for joint working across the whole of Derbyshire.

The Chair thanked the Acting Head of Internal Audit for the report.

RESOLVED that the report be noted.

The meeting concluded at 1420 hours.