



Buckinghamshire County Council

Minutes

OVERVIEW & SCRUTINY COMMITTEE FOR PERFORMANCE AND RESOURCES

MINUTES OF THE OVERVIEW & SCRUTINY COMMITTEE FOR PERFORMANCE AND RESOURCES HELD ON FRIDAY 5 OCTOBER 2007, IN MEZZANINE ROOM 1, COUNTY HALL, AYLESBURY, COMMENCING AT 1.30 PM AND CONCLUDING AT 4.00 PM.

MEMBERS PRESENT

Mr S Adams, Mr M Appleyard, Mrs P Birchley, Mr N Hussain, Mr Z Mohammed, Mr A Oxley, Mr D Polhill, Mr F Robinson OBE and Mr P Rogerson

1 ELECTION OF CHAIRMAN

It was proposed by Mr CF Robinson OBE, seconded by Mrs P Birchley, that Mr P Rogerson be elected Chairman of the Committee for the ensuing year.

RESOLVED –

That Mr P Rogerson be elected Chairman of the Committee for the ensuing year.

2 APPOINTMENT OF VICE-CHAIRMAN

It was proposed by Mr P Rogerson, seconded by Mr D Polhill, that Mrs M Aston, be appointed Vice-Chairman of the Committee for the ensuing year.

RESOLVED –

That Mrs M Aston be appointed Vice-Chairman of the Committee for the ensuing year.

3 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE / CHANGES IN MEMBERSHIP

Apologies for absence were received from Mrs M Aston, Mr M Edmonds, Mr T Egleton and Julia Wassell.

4 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

There were no Declarations of Interest.

5 OVERVIEW OF THE INFORMAL MEETING HELD ON 4 JULY 2007

Prior to the main business of this, the first meeting of the Overview and Scrutiny Committee on Performance and Resources, members had received a presentation from Jackie Yates, Head of Finance, on Medium Term Financial Planning (MTFP). The presentation gave members an overview of the MTFP and Budget setting cycle, principles and practices.

The Committee noted their terms of reference, which had been agreed by full Council at its meeting on 27 September. They also received a member development pack.

6 SCOPING PAPER FOR MEDIUM TERM PLANNING PROCESS

The Committee received, and agreed, the scoping paper prepared for the Committee's review of the MTFP process.

Members felt that it was important for all County Councillors to be involved in the budget process, not simply the Cabinet. The Committee would need to look backwards within the MTFP to establish whether the "money was in the right place". It was emphasised that the MTFP needed to deliver priorities not just savings.

Jackie Yates confirmed the timetable for the annual settlement. A provisional announcement would be made in November. The final figures would not be given until January. The Committee would, therefore, need to intensify its scrutiny work in the latter part of January and early February with its sessions with Cabinet Members and appropriate officers.

The issue of monitoring was very important and there was a need for clear focus and direction. The "look backwards" would be at the Committee's next meeting in November.

7 WORK PROGRAMME

The Committee discussed, and agreed, its work programme, as submitted. Members emphasised the need for monthly budgeting and performance reports. The Committee recognised the need to be able to ask meaningful questions of Cabinet Members, Strategic Directors and Heads of Service and to challenge where necessary. For the next meeting of the Committee, it was agreed to ask the Cabinet Member for Resources and the Head of Finance to attend.

8 2007/2008 DATES OF PERFORMANCE AND RESOURCES COMMITTEE

The Committee noted the dates suggested for its meetings for the latter part of 2007 and for 2008.

CHAIRMAN