



Buckinghamshire County Council

Minutes

OVERVIEW & SCRUTINY COMMITTEE FOR PERFORMANCE AND RESOURCES

MINUTES OF THE OVERVIEW & SCRUTINY COMMITTEE FOR PERFORMANCE AND RESOURCES HELD ON TUESDAY 11 DECEMBER 2007, IN NEW IRELAND ROOM, NEW COUNTY OFFICES, AYLESBURY, COMMENCING AT 10.00 AM AND CONCLUDING AT 11.45 AM.

MEMBERS PRESENT

Mr P Rogerson (Chairman), Mr S Adams, Mr M Appleyard, Mrs P Birchley, Mrs A Davies, Mr M Edmonds, Mr N Hussain, Mr Z Mohammed, Mr D Polhill and Mr F Robinson OBE

1 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE / CHANGES IN MEMBERSHIP

Apologies for absence were received from Mrs M Aston, Mr T Egleton and Mr A Oxley.

2 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

There were no Declarations of Interest.

3 MINUTES

The Minutes of the Meeting of the Committee held on 6 November, 2007, were confirmed, subject to the amendment of the penultimate sentence on page 1 to read "A corporate underspend had also been carried over from last year because procurement savings had not been made".

4 ANALYSIS OF THE MEDIUM TERM PLANNING PROCESS (HEADS OF SERVICE PERSPECTIVE)

The Committee received and discussed an Analysis of the Responses from Heads of Service on the Medium Term Planning Process. Frank Downes, Cabinet Member for Resources, Ian Trenholm, Strategic Director Resources, and Jackie Yates, Head of Finance, attended the Meeting and responded to Members' questions.

Following detailed discussion of all the issues the Committee agreed :-

- that the MTP process should be reviewed, via a majority group member, a member of the opposition and two Heads of Service, with a view to slim lining the process to avoid wasting time ;

- that Heads of Service should demonstrate an adequate skills set. Currently, it is felt that some Heads of Service are not confident about the budgetary management process;
- that trend data should be provided ;
- that, with regard to consultation, the proformas have reported an inconsistency of who Heads of Service consult throughout the year ;
- that there is a need for Heads of Service to be more forward looking over the three period
- that there needs to be clarity of the additional budget allocated in year one (how was this money used in years two and three)
- that MTP decisions should be justified by aligning them to priorities in the corporate plan
- that the budget should be refreshed alongside the Corporate Plan refresh ensuring that priorities are taken into consideration at this stage.

5 APPROACH TO SCRUTINY OF PROPOSED BUDGET

The Committee discussed their approach to scrutiny of the Budget and how they should approach the January meetings. Members discussed some possible questions and approaches. The report from the exercise (Examination of the Budget in Public) needed to go to Cabinet on 4th February and to Council on 21st February.

It was agreed :-

- that members would confirm any suggested questions to Cheryl Powell as soon as possible ;
- that the Committee wishes to work together on the exercise but with the possibility of groups of two members asking a Cabinet member a series of questions and becoming experts on a particular Portfolio.

6 DATE AND TIME OF NEXT MEETING

Tuesday 8 January 2008 at 1.30 pm in Mezzanine Room 2.

CHAIRMAN