

`Time commenced 6.00pm  
Time finished 7.55pm

## **CORPORATE SCRUTINY AND CLIMATE CHANGE BOARD 2 JULY 2012**

Present: Councillor Tittley (Chair)  
Councillors Afzal, Hickson, Hillier, Holmes, Jones, Redfern, Whitby  
and Wood

### **01/12 Apologies for Absence**

There were no apologies for absence.

### **02/12 Late Items Introduced by the Chair**

In accordance with Section 100(B) (4) of the Local Government Act 1972, the Chair agreed to admit the following late item on the grounds that it was due to be considered by Council Cabinet on 11 July 2012 and they had requested the Board comments prior to making a decision:

- Consultation Policy

### **03/12 Declarations of Interest**

There were no declarations of interest.

### **04/12 Minutes of the Scrutiny Management Commission**

The minutes of the Scrutiny Management Commission held on 27 March 2012 were noted.

### **05/12 Council Cabinet Forward Plan**

No items were selected.

### **06/12 Scrutiny of the Forward Plan**

There were no items.

### **07/12 Call-in**

There were no call-ins received for the commission to consider.

## 08/12 Remit and Work Programme

The Board received presentations from Richard Williams, Director of Regeneration, Gordon Stirling, Director of Transformation and Strategic Services and Christine Durrant, Director of Planning and Facilities Management, whose service areas came within the remit of the Board.

The Board considered a report which set out the service areas within its remit and a resolution from the Planning Housing and Leisure Board recommending the Board to adopt energy management together with climate change and home energy under the terms of reference of the Board.

The Board then considered what areas they would like to include in the work programme for 2012/13.

The following areas were put forward:

- Castleward
- Osmaston / Rolls Royce site regeneration
- Strategic Transformation Programme
- Global Technology Cluster
- Sustainable powered vehicles

### **Resolved**

- 1. To note the presentations and request a more detailed presentation on the global technology cluster at the next meeting.**
- 2. To adopt energy management together with climate change and home energy under the terms of reference of this Board.**
- 3. To include the following items in the Board work programme for 2012/13:**
  - **Castleward**
  - **Osmaston / Rolls Royce site regeneration**
  - **Strategic Transformation Programme**
  - **Global Technology Cluster**
  - **Sustainable powered vehicles – to consider progress of introducing electric powered vehicles with our fleet**
  - **Sustainability of job skills – comparison between vocation and academic skills**
  - **Difficult to develop sites in the City centre.**

## 09/12 Performance Management

The Board considered a report which explored how Overview and Scrutiny Boards could provide value in reviewing and challenging performance across the Council and wider partnerships. Changes to the national performance framework had resulted in less inspection and assessment of local authorities by central

Government. There was an important role for Overview and Scrutiny to support improvement activity across the Council and demonstrate value for money to the local community.

The report included a description of the current Council performance framework and puts forward possible ways in which Scrutiny could add value to existing arrangements. This could include greater monitoring of key performance measures by Board members and reinvigorated performance surgeries which focused more on outcomes.

Feedback from Overview and Scrutiny on the options would inform the review of the Council's performance framework. Proposals would be put forward to the Council Cabinet later in July 2012.

### **Resolved**

- 1. To select Option 1 – ‘Retain Surgeries but they could be chaired by Scrutiny Chairs and focus on service areas selected by Scrutiny Boards (rather than Cabinet members). This would require more information being presented to Scrutiny Boards than is currently the case to enable appropriate selection. Boards could select areas / measures from service business plans for monitoring and referral to Surgeries when required which could demonstrate greater autonomy’ as the preferred method of reviewing and challenging performance going forward.**
- 2. To invite the lead Members from the Conservative and Liberal Democrat Groups to attend the surgeries.**

## **10/12 Policy Management**

The Board considered a report which stated that since the Coalition Government came to power in 2010, there had been a significant shift in policy direction, supported by legislation, which affected all Council Directorates.

The report explored how Overview and Scrutiny Boards could provide value in systematically reviewing and challenging the Council's response to new legislation and policy across the Council and wider partnerships.

**Resolved to note the report.**

## **11/12 Consultation Policy**

The Board considered a report which stated that effective consultation enabled the Council to make informed decisions on policy and services and improved accountability to citizens, stakeholders and partners. Therefore the Council was committed to carrying out consultation that was targeted at and easily accessible to those with a clear interest in a policy, service or issue.

To ensure the Council carries out consultation to a consistently high professional standard, in order to collate the information required to inform decisions, a Consultation Policy was required that contained clear standards and controls.

The policy proposed would ensure that all consultation:

- met quality standards set out in our consultation criteria
- was compliant with statutory guidance
- was economical and effective
- maximised participation
- was not susceptible to legal challenge
- could be used safely to inform decisions
- was trusted and gets the buy-in of consultees
- meets our equality and diversity responsibilities

This policy should be used in conjunction with, but does not supersede statutory guidance and regulatory processes. However, it does set out the minimum standards expected of Council consultations.

This policy would apply to all Council employees and those acting on the Council's behalf, including partners and third party contractors.

**Resolved to recommend Council Cabinet to approve the Consultation Policy.**

MINUTES END