

Scrutiny Programme Board

Date: Thursday, 14 January 2010

Time: 6.15 pm

Venue: Committee Room 3 - Wallasey Town Hall

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AGENDA

1. MEMBERS' CODE OF CONDUCT - DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST/PARTY WHIP

Members are asked to consider whether they have personal or prejudicial interests in connection with any item(s) on this agenda and, if so, to declare them and state what they are.

Members are reminded that they should also declare, pursuant to paragraph 18 of the Overview and Scrutiny Procedure Rules, whether they are subject to a party whip in connection with any item(s) to be considered and, if so, to declare it and state the nature of the whipping arrangement.

2. MINUTES (Pages 1 - 4)

To receive the minutes of the meeting held on 4 November 2009.

3. REVIEW OF SCRUTINY PROGRAMME BOARD TERMS OF REFERENCE - ALLOCATION OF CALL-IN NOTICES

Further to minute 14 (14 September 2009), the Cabinet, at its meeting on 15 October 2009 (minute 163 refers) considered the following proposed amendment to paragraph (iv) of the Scrutiny Programme Boards terms of reference (Call-in Notices) –

“(iv) the chair and party spokespersons of the scrutiny programme board shall consider call-in notices in relation to executive functions which fall within the terms of reference of more than one overview and scrutiny committee and allocate such notices to those committees affected by the decision.”

The Cabinet noted that the request was for a constitutional change, which needed to be referred to the Council. However, Cabinet recognises also that the original terms of reference were specifically agreed by the Council in order to reduce the need for multiple hearings on the same item and to allow the Scrutiny Programme Board itself to hear call-ins which affected more than one Committee.

As the original terms of reference do not preclude hearings by more than one Committee, where the Scrutiny Programme Board believes this is appropriate and the revised terms of reference specifically remove the right of the Scrutiny Programme Board to hear call-ins affecting more than one Committee, Cabinet believed this was contrary to the Council's intent and so recommended to the Council that the terms of reference remain unchanged.

Cabinet minute 163 was approved by the Council on 2 November 2009 and an objection to the minute was not approved.

At its meeting on 4 November 2009, the Board requested clarification from the Director of Law, HR and Asset Management of the Terms of Reference in relation to the allocation of call-in notices.

4. MEMBERS TRAINING AND DEVELOPMENT

At its meeting held on 26 November 2009 (minute 202 refers), the Cabinet was requested to consider the recommendations of the Scrutiny Programme Board (Minute No. 26 – 4/11/09 refers) regarding Members' training and development. The Cabinet –

Resolved – That

- (1) Cabinet thanks the Scrutiny Programme Board for its referral;**
- (2) Cabinet notes that an initiative is already being taken by the Council's Chief Executive to progress issues around Members' Training and Development (including those around governance, training budgets and training providers) and that a meeting of the Chief Executive, Cabinet and Portfolio Holder for Corporate Services and the Members' Training Steering Group will shortly be held to discuss these issues; and**
- (3) therefore, Cabinet requests that the Chief Executive reports back to it on the outcomes of these discussions and to the Scrutiny Programme Board and the Employment and Appointments Committee at the earliest opportunity.**

It has proved difficult to arrange a meeting owing to members' other commitments. Arrangements have now been made and there is to be a meeting of the Member Training Steering Group on 8 February. All of its members and the relevant Portfolio

Holder have agreed to attend. Once this meeting has taken place a further report will be made to this Board on its proceedings and any outcomes.

5. SUCCESSFUL SCRUTINY 2009 (Pages 5 - 26)

A copy of the Centre for Public Scrutiny's publication – Successful Scrutiny 2009 – Outstanding Practice in Public Scrutiny is attached for Members information.

6. ALCOHOL SCRUTINY REVIEW - PROGRESS REPORT (Pages 27 - 32)

7. WORKING AS ONE COUNCIL

The issue of joined up working across Council Departments in order to avoid duplication has been identified by Members as part of the Scrutiny Work Programme. Members are invited to discuss how best to take this matter forward.

8. COUNCILLOR CALL FOR ACTION - RECORD AND EVIDENCE TRAIL (Pages 33 - 48)

9. UPDATE ON NEW LEGISLATION (Pages 49 - 54)

10. THE FORWARD PLAN AND THE SCRUTINY FUNCTION (Pages 55 - 60)

11. WORK PROGRAMMES OF OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY COMMITTEES (Pages 61 - 96)

- (a) Children and Young People
- (b) Council Excellence
- (c) Economy and Regeneration
- (d) Health and Well Being
- (e) Sustainable Communities

12. REVIEW OF SCRUTINY WORK PROGRAMME (Pages 97 - 104)

13. ANY OTHER URGENT BUSINESS APPROVED BY THE CHAIR