

At a meeting of the Overview and Scrutiny Committee held in Council Chamber - Allerdale House, Workington on Thursday 24 January 2019 at 9.30 am

Members

Councillor Alan Pitcher (Chair)
Councillor John Cook
Councillor Hilary Harrington
Councillor Bill Pegram

Councillor Janet Farebrother (Co-Chair)
Councillor Joseph Cowell
Councillor Billy Miskelly

Apologies for absence were received from Councillor Malcolm Grainger, Councillor Joe Holliday, Councillor Frank Johnston, Councillor Jim Osborn and Councillor Martin Wood

Staff Present

B Carlin, A FitzGerald, I Hinde, L Jardine, S Sewell and P Wood

Also Present

J Ellis (Executive Member: Governance and People Resources) and K Hansen (Executive Member: Transformation)

320. Declaration of Interests

None Declared

321. Questions

Mr P Nicholson submitted the following question,

“Please explain why your previous answer which refers to the Executive on 5 February 2014 Procurement Considerations Paragraph 9 should not be understood to refer only to the operation of the LLP and not the initial prior selection of the partner before the operation can take place so that before awarding the contract Scrutiny would have evidence to advise the Executive that Allerdale Borough Council could, as advised by the Council’s own auditors DeLoitte, be in unlawful contravention of The Public Contracts Regulations 2006 amended 2009 which requires lawful process in the selection of contract award procedure and Scrutiny has not evidenced, unless the Committee can answer now, that they have seen tendering or lawful competition for partnership before Allerdale Borough Council Executive, arranged that the only company to be exclusively selected for partnership with Allerdale to develop our community’s land would be Lucent that is based in Luxembourg with beneficial owners, at various times, in Cyprus, Isle of Man, USA and the Channel Islands, none of which pay UK taxes.

For the sake of clarity and the avoidance of doubt please clarify your answer in 9 final sentence 9.1.3 “Therefore any individual transaction carried out by the Joint Venture for which the Council is involved.” This is meaningless and misleading and needs to have meaning as further considerations continue”.

The response to this question will be provided to Mr Nicholson in writing

322. Public Participation

None Received

323. Portfolio presentation by the Executive Member for Transformation

Councillor Konrad Hansen, Executive Member and portfolio holder for Transformation delivered a presentation to members.

The presentation included details of the work undertaken in his portfolio, successes, the future challenges and who is involved in the portfolio.

Councillor Hansen provided an update on the member training he had delivered on portable devices, advising members that one to one sessions are available.

Councillor Hansen supported by the Head of Projects and Programmes, and the Head of Customer Operations and Transformation then took questions from members on the new projects function, the role of scrutiny and the use of portable digital devices.

324. Portfolio presentation by the Executive Member for Governance and People Resources

Executive Member for Governance and People Resources, Councillor Joan Ellis provided an overview of her portfolio, including the work of the various functions including, legal/licencing, electoral and democratic services, people resources and assurance, risk and audit.

Councillor Ellis also delivered an update from the West Cumbria Safety Partnership; priorities include tackling Modern Slavery, Violent Crime/Alcohol and Substance Misuse, Domestic Abuse, Anti-Social Behaviour and reducing the number of reoffenders.

Councillor Ellis, supported by Head of Governance and Regulatory Services took questions on the West Cumbria Safety Partnership and how Scrutiny can help her portfolio.

325. Task and Finish Group/Working Group Updates

Members discussed the Star Chamber and the upcoming budget but no updates were provided.

326. Work Programme

The Community Safety Partnership was added onto the Task/Finish Work Programme.

The meeting closed at 11.35 am

