

At a meeting of the Overview and Scrutiny Committee held in Council Chamber - Allerdale House, Workington on Friday 9 March 2018 at 10.00 am

## **Members**

Councillor Alan Pitcher (Chair)  
Councillor Joseph Cowell  
Councillor Hilary Harrington  
Councillor Jim Osborn  
Councillor Celia Tibble

Councillor Malcolm Grainger  
Councillor Billy Miskelly  
Councillor Bill Pegram  
Councillor Martin Wood

Apologies for absence were received from Councillor Janet Farebrother, Councillor Bill Finlay and Councillor Joe Holliday

## **Staff Present**

D Devine, A FitzGerald, I Hinde and C Nicholson

### **382. Minutes of meeting Friday 26 January 2018 of Overview and Scrutiny Committee**

The minutes of the meeting held on 26 January 2018 were signed as a correct record.

### **383. Declaration of Interests**

None declared.

### **384. Questions**

None received.

### **385. Public Participation**

None received.

### **386. Report of Budget Task and Finish Group**

The Overview and Scrutiny Committee was provided with a report from the Budget Review Task and Finish Group.

Members were satisfied with the content of the report.

Members agreed with the recommendations of the Budget Review Task and Finish Group, being that:

- All Councillors should receive a detailed briefing on the Council's budget and budget setting process.
- The process of budget scrutiny of budget scrutiny should be continuous.

- The Overview and Scrutiny Committee ensure the process now begun should continue by either:
  - Additionally tasking the Performance Standing Group with scrutiny of the budget process.
  - Setting up a Budget Standing Group with a remit to scrutinise the budget process throughout the year.
  - Streamlining the process into a single Budget and Performance Standing Group.

With regard to the recommendation that all Councillors should receive a detailed briefing on the Council's budget and budget setting process, the Overview and Scrutiny Committee recommended that the Member Development Working Group be asked to consider this.

### **387. Appointment of Standing Group**

Members were asked to consider the appointment of a Standing Group to monitor the Council's budget setting process.

Members agreed the recommendations in the report.

The Policy Officer (Scrutiny and Partnerships) asked Members to appoint a Chairperson to the group. Councillor M Grainger proposed Councillor B Finlay as Chair of the group. This was seconded by J Cowell. A vote was taken – 8 voted in favour and 1 voted against. Councillor B Finlay was appointed as Chair of the Standing Group.

#### **Agreed**

That:

1. A Standing Group be established by the Overview and Scrutiny Committee to consider the budget setting process.
2. Councillor B Finlay be appointed as Chairperson of the Standing Group, and that he be responsible for managing the group and reporting its findings to the Overview and Scrutiny Committee.
3. The initial membership of the Standing Group be as follows:
  - C Armstrong
  - P Bales
  - J Cowell
  - J Farebrother
  - B Finlay
  - M Fitzgerald
  - P Tibble

4. The Standing Group identifies additional members to be co-opted at the scoping stage.
5. The Standing Group's proposed Terms of Reference be agreed as follows:
  - To perform the overview and scrutiny role in relation to the Allerdale Borough Council budget.
  - To report risks or threats that, in the view of the Standing Group, may hinder the Council in achieving its objectives in delivering the Council Plan to the Overview and Scrutiny Committee for consideration.
  - To similarly report any suggestions for efficiencies or savings for consideration.
6. The Standing Group follows the agreed Terms of Reference and keeps the Overview and Scrutiny Committee updated.
7. The Standing Group scopes the work applying the scoping exercise template.
8. The Standing Group reports its findings, conclusions and recommendations to the Overview and Scrutiny Committee.

#### **388. Forward Plan**

The Overview and Scrutiny Committee noted the Executive's Forward Plan of Key Decisions.

Members asked for information on the Allerdale Social Impact Investment Fund. It was asked that the Head of Economic Growth be invited to give a presentation on this at the next Committee meeting.

#### **389. Task and Finish Group/Working Group Updates**

There were no updates from Task and Finish Groups/Working Groups.

#### **390. Work Programme and Outcomes Monitoring**

The Overview and Scrutiny Committee noted its work programme for 2018/19.

Members considered that there was too much work being undertaken by the Committee for it to fit into its six-weekly meeting schedule. It was suggested that the Committee should meet monthly. The Democratic and Support Services Officer was asked to propose meeting dates.

It was noted that at the Council meeting held on 7 March 2018, Members had requested that the Overview and Scrutiny Committee look at the Council's Capital Investment Strategy. The Overview and Scrutiny Committee agreed that the newly appointed Standing Group would look at the strategy.

**The meeting closed at 11.05 am**

