

SCRUTINY COMMITTEE

Minutes of the Meeting held on 12 March 2015 at 3.30 pm

Present:

Councillor P H MurphyChairman
Councillor R LillisVice Chairman

Councillor M J Chilcott
Councillor B Heywood

Councillor Dewdney
Councillor D J Sanders

Members in Attendance:

Councillor T Taylor
Councillor K H Turner

Councillor E May
Councillor D J Westcott

Officers in Attendance:

Assistant Chief Executive and Monitoring Officer (B Lang)
Efficiencies and Performance Manager (K Batchelor)
Scrutiny and Performance Officer (S Rawle)
Administrative Support (A Randell)

Chief Executive of NDUC (J Harrison)
Assistant Mobilisation Manager (T Morne)
Director of Clinical Commissioning Department (A Anderson)
Clinical Development Manager (H Maughan)

SC68 Apologies for Absence

Apologies were received from Councillors G S Dowding, J Freeman and K Ross.

SC69 Minutes

(Minutes of the Meeting of the Scrutiny Committee held on 12 February 2015 – circulated with the Agenda.)

RESOLVED that the Minutes of the Scrutiny Committee held on 12 February 2015 be confirmed as a correct record.

SC70 Declarations of Interest

Members present at the meeting declared the following personal interests in their capacity as a Member of a County, Parish or Town Council:

Name	Minute No.	Description of Interest	Personal or Prejudicial or Disclosable Pecuniary	Action Taken
Cllr P N Grierson	All Items	Alcombe	Personal	Spoke and voted
Cllr K J Ross	All Items	Dulverton	Personal	Spoke and voted
Cllr P H Murphy	All Items	Watchet	Personal	Spoke and voted
Cllr K H Turner	All Items	Brompton Ralph	Personal	Spoke

SC71 Notes of Key Cabinet Decisions/Action Points

(Copy of Notes of Cabinet Decisions/Action Points, circulated with the agenda.)

RESOLVED that the Key Cabinet Decisions/Action Points from the meeting held on 4 March 2015, be noted.

SC72 Cabinet Forward Plan

(Copy of the Cabinet Forward Plan published 3 March 2015, circulated with the agenda.)

Reference was made to the Cabinet Forward Plan with Cllr Grierson's name needed to be removed from the list at the end.

RESOLVED that the Cabinet Forward Plan published on 3 March 2015, be noted.

SC73 General Practitioner (GP) Out of Hours

The purpose of the report was to provide details of the proposed operation of the GP Out of Hours Service in Somerset, from representatives of the Somerset Clinical Commissioning Group and Somerset Doctors Urgent Care.

A presentation and an introduction to Vocare and Somerset Doctors was given to Members informing them of the out of hours service.

During the course of discussion the following points were made:-

- It was questioned and discussed how the problems of out of hours care in rural areas would be approached.
- Concerns were raised about the 111 service. If there was a threat to life then users of the service were advised to contact 999 and this would be treated as an emergency response.
- First responders were still crucial in being dispatched in rural areas.
- Any referrals would be fed back to the GP and hospitals to bridge the gap.
- The location of out of hours GP's were discussed. Reassurance was given that part of the service would be placed in Minehead to reduce the length of response time and provide a presence at busy times of the year. This was likely to be linked to the MRU to ensure resources were used efficiently.
- It was questioned how non-emergency response times would be assessed. The service would always ensure that non-emergency response times would be clinically appropriate and gave further reassurance that there

would be no differential response times noticed due to incidents occurring in rural areas.

- The main hubs of the service would be based in Taunton and Yeovil which would ensure that there would be enough resource in the right areas.
- The out of hours response would try to link through to the NHS to maximize the support available to the service.
- The recruitment challenge was considered in addressing GP waiting times.
- It was requested if satellite phones could be used in the rural areas.
- New models of care had been set up to support those at greater risk. Yeovil District Hospital had been working with primary care to look after those with long term care needs.
- The problems faced in West Somerset were faced across the whole of the UK in terms of out of hour's provision and loss of doctors.
- It was requested that a greater amount of activities be undertaken for the elderly due to the majority of the residents in West Somerset being made up of older people. Keeping the elderly healthy and active was a high priority in addressing health problems of this age range.

RESOLVED that the update be noted

SC74 **Final Report of the Secondary Education in West Somerset Task and Finish Group**

The purpose of the report was to set out the findings of the Task and Finish Group (TFG) established by the Scrutiny Committee to look into the matter of secondary education in West Somerset.

The report outlined the background to the subject, the investigation carried out and the conclusions drawn by the Task and Finish Group. An introduction to the report was given by Councillor Peter Murphy.

During the course of discussion the following points were made:-

- Members commended the report and questioned what could be done to improve ambition in the provision of education in West Somerset.
- Concern was raised that figures seemed to suggest that school results had been underachieving for years.
- Discussion took place on the level of education achieved by children at the age of 13.
- Members agreed that academies allowed more initiatives along with making them accountable to parents and governors as opposed to democratic accountability. Members recognised the importance of parental involvement.
- It was detailed how greater value could be added in terms of department and ability at Key Stage 2.
- Involvement from the management team along with all, parents and teachers would be needed to ensure improvement in the education system.

Noted that the TFG's recommendations were as follows:-

- 1) The TFG recommended that support be given to any initiatives which had the raising of attainment as their goal. In particular, the TFG

supported the ambition to form a Multi Academy Trust in West Somerset. West Somerset College be supported in its efforts to carry out its Action Plan, in particular supporting the retention of a wide range of post 16 education in West Somerset so that young people were not compelled to travel great distances to improve their skills.

- 2) That national Government and the LGA be lobbied to address the effectiveness of the governance structure of academy schools and to clarify the role and responsibility of the local authority in relation to the challenging of underperforming academies.
- 3) That West Somerset College be asked to inform Councillors how they could engage with the school directly and invite them to do so.
- 4) The TFG would continue to monitor developments in the education system in West Somerset as it continued to evolve with a view to inviting providers to engage with the Council as circumstances permitted; and
- 5) The TFG would explore the potential for joint scrutiny work between the District and County Council concerning educational matters in West Somerset.

Resolved that the recommendations of the Task and Finish Group be supported and Cabinet be recommended to endorse them.

SC75 Joint Management and Shared Service (JMASS) Programme Update

(Report No WSC 48/15, circulated with the agenda.)

This report formally shared with those charged with project governance, the final position on the implementation of the Business Case for JMASS. It outlined what had been achieved, how this compared with the Business Case requirement, shared any lessons learnt along with a “position statement” on some live issues and any remaining project risks, and offered some suggestions on the next stages of the programme of transformation.

The JMASS Joint Project Board and JPAG (Joint Partnership Advisory Group) had considered and approved the close down report and were now making it available to Scrutiny Committees and all Councillors in both Councils.

During the course of discussion the following points were made:-

- The amount spent on HR external resource was requested.
- Reported that the One Team structure along with Tier 6 had been in place since the 1 February 2015.
- It was discussed if there would be greater dialogue with IT in consideration that further transformation would be largely IT driven.
- Greater clarity was requested in terms of the splitting of the TCA Government Grant for the project. Members held concerns that the figures presented were incorrect and challenged whether the grant had been jointly awarded.

- The schedule of the closedown was considered along with losses of staff for each Council. The proportion of staff losses at each authority was requested.
- Shared Building Control Services were due to go live on 1 July 2015. The only other service that was in transition into shared services was Legal which would go live on 1 April.
- Councillors would be consulted about their vision for transformation. Members would also be involved with further transformation work after the election.
- It was requested that the minutes from JPAG meetings and Member development workshops were more widely circulated.
- Members were concerned about the loss of staff being charged proportionally and queried who took on pension liabilities for staff who had left.
- It was discussed how funding should be spent on future transformation.

RESOLVED that the report be noted.

SC76 **Minehead Rhynes Recommendation**

An update on this issue was provided to Members.

During the course of discussion the following points were made:-

- Concern was given relating to the impact on the rhynes in the context of further planning developments in Minehead along with the maintenance system. The existing water systems and infrastructure were already at full capacity.
- Members requested the establishment of a working group to highlight the public awareness and importance of preventing flooding.
- It had been confirmed that use of Section 106 Agreement funding for this project would be possible.
- There would be a WSC Flood Board working meeting. All flood problems around the area were different. Parish councils were involved and their individual flood plans were discussed.
- Detailed plans for the rhynes were in hand and would be brought back the Committee to be discussed.
- Flooding policy would need to be in place and it was for planning to agree and make fully informed decisions.

RESOLVED that the update be noted.

SC77 **Scrutiny Committee Work Plan**

(The Scrutiny Committee work plan, circulated with the agenda was considered.)

The report provided the Scrutiny Committee with the opportunity to consider the meeting timetable for 2015/2016.

Councillors were requested to consider and comment on the proposed Work Plan submitted.

The Chairman proposed that the scheduled meeting of the Committee on 18 April 2015 be cancelled. The next meeting of the Scrutiny Committee would therefore take place after the Local Government Elections on 11 June 2015. This was agreed.

RESOLVED that the Work Plan be adopted

SC78 **Sam Rawle, Scrutiny Officer.**

The chairman reported that this would be Sam Rawle's last meeting as West Somerset Councils Scrutiny Officer, he thanked her for all her hard work and wished her well in the future.

Councillors K H Turner and D J Westcott left the committee at 5.30pm.

The meeting closed at 6.10 pm.