



## OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE 18 DECEMBER 2014

### **PRESENT: COUNCILLOR P J O'CONNOR (CHAIRMAN)**

Councillors Mrs A M Newton (Vice-Chairman), B Adams, C J T H Brewis, A Bridges, Mrs J Brockway, M Brookes, P M Dilks, A G Hagues, A J Jesson, Mrs M J Overton MBE, R B Parker, Mrs A E Reynolds, C L Strange, Mrs C A Talbot and T M Trollope-Bellew

Added member: Mr S C Rudman (Church Representative)

Officers in attendance:-

Simon Evans (Health Scrutiny Officer), David Forbes (County Finance Officer), Michelle Grady (Assistant Head of Finance), David Hair (Scrutiny and Member Support Team Leader), Tracy Johnson (Scrutiny Officer), Louise Tyers (Scrutiny Officer), Richard Wills (Executive Director for Environment and Economy), Catherine Wilman (Democratic Services Officer)

### 37 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE/REPLACEMENT MEMBERS

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors A Bridges, C E H Marfleet, C E D Mair and Added Members Mr P Thompson and Mrs G Wright.

### 38 DECLARATION OF MEMBERS' INTERESTS

No declarations were made.

### 39 MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE COMMITTEE HELD ON 27 NOVEMBER 2014

RESOLVED

That the minutes of the meeting held on 27 November 2014 be approved and signed by the Chairman as a correct record.

### 40 CONSIDERATION OF CALL-INS

It was reported that no call-ins had been received.

### 41 PROPOSAL FOR SCRUTINY REVIEWS

It was reported that no scrutiny reviews had been proposed.

**42 REVIEW OF COUNCIL'S PRIORITIES - CONSULTATION FEEDBACK**

Consideration was given to a report which provided a summary of the public consultation feedback received by the Council during November 2014 around what the Council's priorities should be in a climate of reducing available budget. Any comments made by the Committee would be passed to the Executive for consideration when making the budget proposals for 2015/16 onwards.

During discussion of the item, the following points were noted:

- The public were consulted through the Council's free magazine County News and also via the Citizen's Panel. Out of the 300 members of the Citizen's Panel who were contacted, 66 responded. The age range of Panel members was 18-80, however it was not clear whether the responses were representative of this range;
- Participants were asked which services should be protected, and which should not. The results had been analysed and services had been listed in order of priority;
- As part of the consultation, school children who had attended a take-over day at the Council had been asked their opinion on the services to be kept. It was felt that more young people should be consulted on matters such as this in order to ensure their voice was heard;
- Cultural services had been rated as a low priority and some Members felt that culture was important for people's happiness and wellbeing. David Forbes confirmed that a low priority would mean that other funding would be sought to replace the Council's in order to retain the service for residents;
- Comments were made regarding the implications of cutting the Council's budgets in other areas of public services;
- It was felt that money saving exercises and efficient ways of working should be commenced further in advance to allow officers more time to process them. The lessons learnt from previous budget cuts could be applied to help future budget decisions;
- Members felt the cuts in local government funding were a constant challenge and that officers had dealt with them very well.

As a result of the discussion, it was agreed that the following points would be fed back to the Executive for consideration when making the budget proposals for 2015/16 onwards;

- The Committee was frustrated at the continuing under-funding of local government by central government;
- The Committee was interested to know the consequential impact of the County Council's reductions on other public sector bodies in Lincolnshire;
- The Committee hoped that a wider consultation might be possible on any future occasion including more engagement with young people.

RESOLVED

That the report be noted and the comments agreed by the Committee, above, be passed onto the Executive for consideration when making the budget proposals for 2015/16 onwards.

43 OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY WORK PROGRAMME

Consideration was given to a report which enabled the Committee to consider both its own work programme and the scrutiny committee work programmes for 2015.

A discussion took place regarding the previous agenda item and it was agreed that David Forbes should be asked to produce a report for the Committee. This report would explore the possibility of undertaking assessments of the impact of Lincolnshire County Council budget reductions on the wider public sector within the County.

i) Adults Scrutiny Committee

The Health Scrutiny Officer advised that there were not changes to the Committee's work programme for its meeting on 23 January 2015.

At its meeting on 25 February 2015, it was likely that the Committee would be considering a Commissioning Strategy for Carers.

ii) Children and Young People Scrutiny Committee

The Committee was advised that there was one amendment to the work programme, which was the report on Anti-Bullying being deferred to the meeting on 5 June 2015 as further work was required on it.

At its next meeting on 16 January 2015, the Committee would be considering a report on the outcomes from the Ofsted Inspection. Ofsted's inspection report regarding the Council's Children's Services directorate would be published on the Ofsted website on 6 January 2015.

iii) Community and Public Safety Scrutiny Committee

The Chairman advised that two changes had been made to the work programme for the meeting on 21 January 2015;

- The item on the Crime and Disorder Priorities 2015/16 would now be considered on 4 March 2015. However, this would be replaced with an item on the issues around doorstep crime;
- At its meeting on 27 January 2015, the Committee would consider an item on library provision and non-members of the Committee would be able to take part.

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The Scrutiny Officer reported that there were no changes to the work programme. The Committee would next meet on 13 January 2015 and would consider a report on the 2015 programme for Lincoln Castle Revealed.

v) Environmental Scrutiny Committee

The Chairman reported that the Flood and Drainage Management Scrutiny Committee had set up a small working group to look in detail at the proposed response to the Environment Agency's consultation on Flood Risk Management Plans.

vi) Health Scrutiny Committee for Lincolnshire14 January 2015

The Chairman reported that there were no changes to the items listed for 14<sup>th</sup> January 2015, as the Committee was planning to consider five significant items as part of its agenda. The list included an item where the Committee would receive an update on the progress of the Lincolnshire CCGs with their action plan in response to the CQC's report (published in February 2014) on the Health of Looked after Children.

Also in January the Committee would consider a Complaints Overview Report from United Lincolnshire Hospitals NHS Trust. One of the recommendations from the Francis Report, which was accepted by the Government, was that the Health Overview and Scrutiny Committees should take an overview of complaints. This item would help the Committee fulfil this important role.

During the afternoon of 14 January, the Committee would be undertaking a workshop session with representatives from EMAS.

11 February 2015

In addition to the item listed, the Committee was planning to have Sheona MacLeod, the Director of Education Quality and Postgraduate Dean from the East Midlands Education Healthcare Workforce Deanery to provide a presentation to the Committee on the Recruitment and Retention of Healthcare Staff in Lincolnshire. This had become a recurring theme at meetings of the Committee during the last year or so and going forward it was important that the local NHS could attract high quality staff.

Also in February, the Committee would be seeking an update on the Clinical Strategy of Lincolnshire Partnership NHS Foundation Trust.

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The Committee would receive an update on winter pressures.

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Following the work programme update, discussion took place regarding the difficulty in recruiting nursing and medical staff to hospitals in Lincolnshire.

vii) Highways and Transport Scrutiny Committee

The Chairman reported that there was a change to the work programme for the meeting on 19 January 2015. The item on the Grantham Southern Quadrant Link Road had now been deferred to the meeting on 9 March 2015 due to the Judicial Review submitted by a developer not yet being completed.

On the agenda for 9 March 2015, it was requested that the word "emergency" be removed from a report title, so the new title would read "Protocol for Level Crossing Closures".

viii) Value for Money Scrutiny Committee

The Chairman reported that there had been no changes to the work programme. The meeting due to be held on 10 March 2015 had been moved forward to 23 February 2015 to consider Quarter 3 information before the Executive's meeting in March.

RESOLV ED

1. That the work programmes for the Overview and Scrutiny Management Committee and the Council's other Scrutiny Committees (Appendices A and B) be approved, subject to any amendments identified above;
2. That the working group activity set out in Appendix C be noted;
3. That the Forward Plan of Key Decisions from 2 January 2015.

The meeting closed at 11.50 am

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