

CORPORATE SCRUTINY COMMITTEE

9th May 2005

**PRESENT:-**

**Labour Group**

Councillor Murphy (Chair), Councillor Lane (Vice-Chair) and Councillor Stone.

**Conservative Group**

Councillors Atkin, Bale and Mrs. Hood.

COS/30. **MINUTES**

The Open Minutes of the Meeting held on 29th March 2005 were taken as read, approved as a true record and signed by the Chair.

COS/31. **STRATEGIC PLANNING CYCLE – UPDATE ON PROJECT**

It was advised that the Interim Report on this project had been provided to Members of the Improvement Panel and no feedback had been received. At the next stage, it was proposed to talk to Officers and Members of Derbyshire County Council, Derby City Council and another local authority that had received an excellent rating in their Comprehensive Performance Assessment. An informal meeting of the Corporate Scrutiny Committee had been held on 21st April 2005 to give consideration to the questions to be asked to each of these contributors. The proposed questions were circulated and the Chair asked Members to consider these and to provide feedback within seven working days.

The Deputy Chief Executive asked how Members and Officers would be chosen from each of the contributing local authorities. This issue was still to be determined. The Deputy Chief Executive also felt that scrutineers at the other authorities might have undertaken a similar process. The Chair suggested that the visits be undertaken within the next month and that the local authorities be given sufficient notice. It might be useful to share the interim report confidentially with the authorities concerned, as this might ensure more open feedback from the contributors.

COS/32. **CORPORATE PLAN 2005 – 2008**

The Deputy Chief Executive advised that the Draft Corporate Plan for the period 2005/08 had been circulated to Members of the Improvement Panel. The approach to preparing the Corporate Plan had changed this year. Individual sections had been expanded and performance indicators had been incorporated for each of the key themes. Outputs and outcomes had also been incorporated within the Corporate Plan. A front discussion section was yet to be finalised to show where the Council was now, where it wanted to be and how it would get there. A further report would be submitted to the Improvement Panel at its Meeting on Thursday 12th May 2005. A Members'



Seminar would then be held prior to the Corporate Plan being considered at a Special Council Meeting.

The Chair referred to Risk Assessment inspections and felt that all Members should be involved in the preparation of the Corporate Plan. The Deputy Chief Executive commented that project management training could be provided for Members. Councillor Atkin questioned whether a sub-committee would be necessary for the work on risk assessments. The Chair considered that the Council Meeting was the appropriate vehicle for the risk assessment work, as it would engage all Members.

The Chair considered that a further version of the Corporate Plan should be prepared in an “easy to understand” format. The Deputy Chief Executive agreed that this would be useful for both people inside and outside the organisation. The Council’s newspaper was suggested as an appropriate publication for this.

COS/33. **ANNUAL REPORT**

It was reported that a meeting was to be held between the Chairs of the Corporate and Community Scrutiny Committees to consider the Annual Report. The Chair felt that in addition to the full Annual Report, a further version should be prepared in an “easy to read” format. The Annual Report would be considered at the next meeting of the Scrutiny Committee, before being submitted to the Council at its meeting on 30th June 2005. There was a preference for a shorter “resident orientated” version and the Chair offered to speak with the Chair of the Community Scrutiny Committee about this.

COS/34. **WORK PROGRAMME**

The Deputy Chief Executive sought Members’ views on the approach to be taken in preparing the Scrutiny Committee’s Work Programme for 2005/06. Last year, there had been a Scrutiny “Away Day” to give consideration to the Work Programme. The Chair suggested looking initially at the scored matrix of projects to identify those issues which had not yet been addressed and he offered to E-mail this to Members.

S. MURPHY

CHAIR

The Meeting terminated at 4.45 p.m.