

# Executive Scrutiny Committee

A meeting of Executive Scrutiny Committee was held on Wednesday, 6th June, 2012.

**Present:** Cllr Ken Lupton (Chairman), Cllr Derrick Brown (vice Cllr Julia Cherrett), Cllr Robert Gibson, Cllr Barbara Inman, Cllr Mohammed Javed, Cllr Eileen Johnson, Cllr Jean Kirby, Cllr Paul Kirton, Cllr Terry Laing, Cllr Maurice Perry, Cllr Mick Stoker, Cllr David Wilburn (vice Cllr Nigel Cooke), Cllr Mrs Mary Womphrey

**Officers:** Fiona McKie, Margaret Waggott (LD).

**Also in attendance:** Richard Amir (Parent Governor).

**Apologies:** were submitted on behalf of Cllr Lynne Apedaile, Cllr Nigel Cooke, Cllr Julia Cherrett, Cllr Tina Large, Cllr Mrs Jean O'Donnell, Cllr Ross Patterson.

## **1 Evacuation Procedure**

The Evacuation Plan was noted.

## **2 Declarations of Interest**

Councillor Laing declared a personal/non prejudicial interest with regard to Agenda Item No. 6 - Asset Review Update further to being a committee member of Grangefield Community Centre.

Councillor Gibson declared a personal/non prejudicial interest with regard to Agenda Item No. 6 further to being a member of Know How North East.

Councillor Stoker declared a personal/non prejudicial interest with regard to Agenda Item No. 6 further to being a member of Chapel Road Youth Club.

## **3 Minutes for Signing - 27th March 2012**

The minutes of the meeting held on 27th March 2012 were signed by the Chair.

AGREED that the minutes be signed as a correct record.

## **4 Draft Minutes - 8th May 2012**

Consideration was given to the draft minutes of the meeting held on 8th May 2012.

AGREED that the draft minutes be approved.

## **5 Asset Review Update**

Members were provided with a report that provided an update on the Asset Review which built on previous reports to Members in July, September and November 2011.

The report highlighted progress in rationalising the office accommodation estate and summarised developments regarding the use of Children's Centre properties and a number of other buildings.

Progress regarding the review of Libraries was set out in the report and in particular the approach to a forthcoming consultation process.

An update was provided on work that Catalyst were undertaking with respect to the development of a Community Asset Trust.

The report also set out proposals to take forward the work on the Facilities Management Review. In particular, this put forward proposals for a review of arrangements for property-related functions including Caretaking, Cleaning, Utilities and Alarm Systems and Monitoring.

Members held discussion on the EIT review of Children's Social Care to provide suitable accommodation for the newly reconfigured children's social care teams supporting the North and South of the Borough. Members requested further information on the costs relating to accommodating the teams in two different buildings. Garry Cummings would report back to Members.

Discussion was also held on the review of Children's Centres which was reported to Cabinet in November 2011. The procurement process was now complete and the new arrangements would be implemented from 1st June 2012.

AGREED that:-

1. The update be noted.
2. Once vacated, the Wrensfield Office building be advertised for asset transfer and/or disposal by sale.
3. The work to progress the Facilities Management aspects of the review be endorsed.
4. That options regarding the future use and funding of the Abbey Hill (Hardwick) Pool and Gym be explored and considered in the next report.
5. A further report be prepared for consideration in October 2012.

## **6 Quarterly Progress Updates on Previously Agreed Recommendations**

Consideration was given to the assessments of progress contained within the attached Progress Updates on the implementation of previously agreed recommendations. There were outstanding recommendations from the following reviews:

- Scrutiny Review of Outside Bodies
- Scrutiny Review of Cycling on Pavements
- EIT Reporting In Review of Advice and Information
- EIT Reporting In Review of Procurement and Commissioning
- EIT Task and Finish Review of Xentrall
- EIT Task and Finish Review of Democratic Services

Discussion was held on whether the Citizens Advice Bureau was included in the

newly formed advice providers network and whether they were reliant on lottery funding. Margaret Waggott would report back to Members.

AGREED that:-

1) The Progress Updates be noted and the assessments for progress be confirmed subject to the amendments outlined above.

2) Further information be provided as requested.

## **7 Forward Plan**

Members were provided with the Statutory Forward Plan for 1st June 2012 to 30th September 2012.

AGREED that the Statutory Forward Plan be noted.

## **8 Report on Chairs Updates**

Members were provided with an update from each of the Select Committee Chairs' on their current and future review topics.

AGREED that the Chairs' updates be noted.