

ANNUAL REPORT FROM THE OVERVIEW & SCRUTINY COMMITTEE TO FULL COUNCIL

2012 – 2013

BACKGROUND

Arising out of the Local Government Act 2000, the Council has had in place an Overview & Scrutiny Committee since May 2002.

MEMBERSHIP

The following Councillors served on the Committee during the Council Year 2012/2013:

Cllr David Cloke (Chairman)
Cllr Sue Bailey (Vice Chairman)
Cllr Alison Clish Green
Cllr Christine Hall
Cllr John Hockridge
Cllr Donald Horn
Cllr Jeff Moody
Cllr Debo Sellis
Cllr John Sheldon
Cllr David Whitcomb

(Note: other Members also served on the Committee during the course of the year in a substitute capacity).

MEETINGS

Meetings of the Committee have been held on the following dates:

Tuesday 12 June 2012
Tuesday 10 July 2012 (special meeting to hear call in)
Tuesday 16 October 2012
Tuesday 15 January 2013
Tuesday 12 March 2013

TASK & FINISH GROUPS (TFG)

- **Leisure Management Task and Finish Group**
(Membership: Cllrs D Cloke, D Whitcomb, R Baldwin, K Ball, S Bailey and A Leech)
A Task and Finish Group of Members was set up to review the leisure contract and a number of conclusions and recommendations were made.

- **Two Committee Structure**

(Membership: Cllrs Cllr D Cloke, S Bailey, D Whitcomb, R Musgrave, J Sheldon, C Hall)

A group was set up to review the Two Committee Structure being piloted by the Council. The recommendations made so far include that the current pilot be extended to December 2013 and also that the Chairs and Vice Chairs of Resources Committee and Community Services Committee consider revising the current working arrangements to ensure that the workload is more evenly spread.

- **Rural Broadband**

(Membership: Cllrs R E Baldwin, K Ball, A Clish-Green, D W Cloke and J B Moody)

The Rural Broadband Task and Finish Group set up jointly with South Hams District Council continued to report progress to the Committee.

CALL-IN

- There was one Call-In during the year in relation to the Community Services Committee's decision on the "New Wharf Application for Economic Development and Regeneration Grant" which was made at that Committee's meeting on Tuesday 26th June 2012.

Reasons for call in:

1. The Council has limited resources and there are concerns over the allocation of grant monies to the Wharf out of a relatively small grant budget; and,
2. The Council could be contributing towards a feasibility study which might enable an external bid to buy the business.

OTHER TOPICS COVERED DURING THE YEAR

- **Performance Indicators**

A Working Group, which was led by the Chairman worked with a number of Heads of Service to determine a new list of locally determined Performance Indicators that the authority should monitor to replace the nationally set indicators. Those selected were then regularly reviewed by the Committee and in the case of Exception reports, actions recommended as appropriate in the case of indicators not being met for two consecutive quarters.

- **Service Level Agreement Monitoring**

The Committee received a monitoring report in relation to the service level agreements with West Devon Community and Voluntary Services and the Citizens Advice Bureau. In addition, a presentation was received from the Citizens Advice Bureau.

- **Use of Agency Staff**

The Committee requested a report into the use of Agency Staff by the Council. They have asked that a further report be received next year in order to monitor the reasons for the use of Agency Staff and the impact on permanent staff.

- **Review of Connect Partnership and related Delivery Arrangements**
The Committee received a report in relation to a suggested way forward for the Connect Partnership and related delivery arrangements, following a review undertaken by the Connect Partnership Board and officers, and prompted by Member feedback, the outcome of the Peer Review and reducing staff and financial capacity within the Council and partner agencies.
- **Presentations**
The Committee received a presentation from the South West Devon Community Energy Partnership and a presentation from the Housing Services Manager in relation to the Devon Home Choice Service

BUDGET

The Committee had a budget of £1,500 per annum to cover the cost of operating the Committee and for the procurement of external advice when necessary.

FORTHCOMING WORK PROGRAMME

- Continue monitoring of Performance Indicators
- Receive a presentation from West Devon Community Voluntary Services
- Monitor Service Level Agreements with WD CVS and CAB
- Continue to monitor the Connect Partnership and Delivery Plans
- Receive a report of the Working Group set up to review decisions relating to the Focus site
- Respond, as appropriate, to issues relating to the work of the Council and to the West Devon area in general
- Invite representatives of any service organisation when issues arise which disadvantage residents
- Scrutinise the local crime and disorder partnership – South Devon & Dartmoor Crime & Disorder Reduction Partnership
- Continue to monitor the Council's policy on the Regulation of Investigatory Powers Act