

BIRMINGHAM CITY COUNCIL

CORPORATE RESOURCES OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY COMMITTEE 8 DECEMBER 2015
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**MINUTES OF A MEETING OF THE CORPORATE RESOURCES OVERVIEW
AND SCRUTINY COMMITTEE HELD ON TUESDAY, 8 DECEMBER 2015 AT
1400 HOURS IN COMMITTEE ROOM 6, COUNCIL HOUSE, BIRMINGHAM**

PRESENT:-

Councillor Zaffar in the Chair;

Councillors Brew, Bridle, Chatfield, Finnegan, Hunt, Lal, and Wood

ALSO PRESENT

Councillor I Ward – Deputy Leader

Ms K Creavin – Head of Birmingham Wellbeing Services

Ms G Foxwell – Head of Business Change and Service Improvement

Mr C Gibbs – Service Director, Customer Services

Ms J Power – Scrutiny Officer

Miss E Williamson – Head of Scrutiny Services

Mr E Wilson – Committee Manager

NOTICE OF RECORDING/WEBCAST

- 40 The Chairman advised, and the Committee noted, that this meeting would be webcast for live or subsequent broadcast via the Council's Internet site (www.birminghamnewsroom.com) and members of the press/public could record and take photographs. The whole of the meeting would be filmed except where there were confidential or exempt items.

APOLOGIES/THANKS

- 41 Apologies were submitted on behalf of Councillors Kooner, Mosquito and Sambrook.

The Chairman expressed thanks to Councillor Matthew Gregson for his service to the Committee. He added that at the last Full City Council a change was made with Councillor Finnegan replacing Councillor Mick Gregson. He

welcomed Councillor Finnegan to the Committee.

MINUTES

- 42 The public parts of the Minutes of the meeting held on 21 and 27 October 2015, having been previously circulated, was noted.
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DEPUTY LEADER

The following report entitled 'review of the Birmingham promise' was submitted:-

(See document No 1)

Councillor I Ward, Deputy Leader, attended the meeting and made the following comments:

What was in the promise in absolute terms and what was some of the contractual arrangements the Council had with the third party contractor, example, routine housing repairs. The contractual arrangement was to achieve 97% in 30 days. In his view if they were on or above that target, they were meeting the Birmingham Promise albeit if someone then contacted them to say that their routine repair was not carried out in the 30 days, they should be writing to the customer to explain the reason for this.

Two of the targets were withdrawn in spite of the fact that the process for agreeing what went in the Birmingham Promise that service areas would attend the Committee or write to the Committee with an assurance of what they were putting forward they could measure and achieve. These assurances were given to the Committee 12 months ago and when the report was submitted to Cabinet all service areas had signed up to those targets.

It was disappointing that two were withdrawn recently, one being the promise on missed bin collection – if people had reported that they had a missed collection either on the day of collection or the following day, the City Council would collect that missed collection in 3 days. It was uncertain why this had gone wrong and it would be useful if the Scrutiny Committee could look into this issue. The second one was the Blue Badge – the issue of reminders were done by a third party by way of a computerised system whereby they states that everyone was notified, but there appeared to be Blue Badges. The Council was made aware that this was not the case which was the reason that target had been withdrawn. It would be useful if the Scrutiny Committee could look into this issue.

The Citizens Panel had made various comments regarding how they felt. In his opinion the City Council had not communicated this as effectively as they could. If you walk into the reception of most local authorities, or any of their buildings, they would have something on the wall that was akin to the Birmingham Promise to say what they were delivering for their citizens in their area and what they could expect to achieve. In spite of requesting that Marketing roll out

something similar across Birmingham, this did not appear to have happened. He requested that the Scrutiny Committee investigate this issue. If they were going to continue with this it needed to be communicated more effectively.

The Deputy Leader drew the Committees attention to the various options for 2016/17 on page 6 of the report.

The Birmingham Promise

In response to questions, the following was amongst the points made:-

1. The Deputy Leader noted Councillor Chatfield's comment concerning the two areas that had been dropped - *Fleet and Waste Management and Blue badge renewals* - and advised that Fleet and Waste Management stated that they were unable to sift out the number of residents who call either on the day of collection or the day after from other calls that came in later in the week.
2. In taking the promise forward into 's report the new Financial Year, to pinch a phrase from Lord Kerslake, they need to '*hold the service feet to the fire*' so that they could nail down what they were saying they could deliver. If they were saying they could deliver it, there should be no need later in the year for them to be back tracking on it to say that they had made a mistake and could not deliver what they had promised. They needed to be held to account for the failure to deliver.
3. The Birmingham Promise was 8 pages long, but it was the role of Marketing Birmingham to condense this to a poster that could be understood by members of the public. This was done in other local authorities across the country and the staffs were not being asked to do anything that was not being done elsewhere. It was not unreasonable to expect them to create a poster of one side that list all the promises to inform the public what the City Council was promising them and what they Council expect in return.
4. The two bullet points in relation to the Council's expectation of its citizens – the idea of this was that the Council was saying that they would do something as a local authority for people in this City, but there was then an expectation on people to do what they needed to do if the City was to continue providing them with a service.
5. In terms of the final bullet point concerning household waste and recycling, this was about putting it out in a timely manner so that the collection was not missed if they did not put it out in the first place. Similarly with the other two, we use correct channels when reporting the issue, this was about was that they could not have a system where residents were saying that they had reported this to their local councillor and you did not do what you promised you would do.
6. They needed to have the reporting going into the system the correct way if they were to then deliver on what hey stated that they would

deliver. They could not have this being reported to third parties or being reported incorrectly.

7. Providing full information links back to the blue badge. They were making a promise that they would deal with Housing Benefit claims within a certain time frame subject to people providing all the information that they needed to provide for their claim to be assessed. They were expecting the citizen's behaviour to be in line with what was needed in order that they could deliver on this.
8. Another thing they need to be considering was unclean streets concerning the litter people had dropped on the street that then had to be picked up. He questioned how much this was costing the local authority just to pick up litter that people had dropped which was a large amount of money.
9. In terms of reporting the missed collections through other mediums, this had caused difficulties. There was a need for the information to be reported through the correct channel. The Deputy Leader stated that the Committee could make other suggestions that could be included in the Birmingham Promise that also places obligations on the citizens.
10. The process whereby the *Fleet and Waste Management and Blue badge renewals* promise was being removed was at Cabinet through the Quarterly Performance Monitoring report and the two items were removed by the relevant Cabinet Members.
11. The fact that they had started with the service areas saying they could deliver these and as they go through the year, for different reasons they had decided that they either could not measure it or could not deliver it or should not have suggested it in the first place, was something that this Committee could look into and for the service areas '*feet to be held to the fire*' concerning the issue.
12. They should not be getting into this sort of mess once they had gotten into agreement with the service area who had advised that this was their service plan, this was what they would deliver and they would measure it.
13. With regard to terminating the Birmingham Promise, the point being made was that the Birmingham Promise had to be aligned with the promise being made. It was no good having a Birmingham Promise if it did not align with the future vision of the City Council.
14. There were things that they would not be doing in the future as the size and shape of the City Council would be reduced. It was no good making a promise about something that would be delivered in the future.
15. In terms of continuous improvement, this was correct, but if they already had targets in the high 90s etc., these things cost money and

the Council will have less money in the future. If they were going to contract with an organisation on 100%, they would require more payment for that level of service than they would for a target set lower than that. They needed to be mindful that the Council would have less money going forward. This was not to say that they should not be striving to continuously improve on what they do.

16. Where they had reported on the Birmingham Promise quarterly through the year, this was probably a mistake and they perhaps should have had an end of year report on it. Again, he would be interested in the Committee's views concerning this. Suggestions for a different name for this would be welcomed. The principle of what they were doing was the important thing.
17. In the Citizens Panel response, the last bullet point, the Scrutiny Committee looked at these 12 months ago. If they were going to say to people in the future, routine housing repair we will repair 97% of these within 30 days, there would be 3% of them that the City Council would not do this for. The question would then be what you would do for the 3% of households where they did not deliver on that. It was decided that they would write a letter to these households explaining the reason they did not meet the target concerning their individual case.
18. If they had thing in the Birmingham Promise that was also KPIs and they were not aligned, they would go to the Ombudsman. If they had KPIs in the Birmingham Promise, they would be monitored quarterly as they would be part of the quarterly monitoring report which is reported to the Cabinet.
19. In terms of including something with the Council Tax bills there was a queue of different areas that they wanted to put information into the Council Tax bill, but there was a cost or doing this and also to sign off what was agreed would be going would be the end of January 2016, which was a short timescale to fit with what they were doing.
20. Regarding the Blue badge, what was in the quarter two monitoring report was that they were saying they did not trust the third party's information.
21. It was important to be clear about the things that were in the Promise and how they arrived there. They were not prescribed or insisted upon, but were the services themselves offering up these things saying that they could do them and that they could measure them. This had not proven to be the case as was being pointed out. They were not asking anything that other local authorities did not already do.
22. They had spoken of culture change and perhaps part of the culture change in Birmingham was that they start to own the things and to hold people to account when they did not deliver on those things and to ensure that they tell the truth and that they did not promise things they could not deliver.

23. In the case of Fleet and Waste Management, they were saying that they could not measure their performance that was in the Birmingham Promise. It was not known why they were saying this.
24. Councillor Lisa Trickett, Cabinet Member for Sustainability's position was that this be withdrawn so that they could put measures in place whereby they could measure it. She was trying to put a fix into the system and to hold people to account within Fleet and Waste Management.
25. When he suggested that they should only be monitoring the Promise at the end of the year, what was meant was that they only take a public report at the year end. Monitoring was undertaken on a monthly basis rather than a quarterly basis.
26. A monthly performance meeting was carried out when they go through all the KPIs and the Birmingham Promise. It would still be monitored and corrective action taken if they were falling short. It was not worth taking it as part of the quarterly report through the year.
27. The Deputy Leader expressed disappointment as anyone around the table that they were here taking in this fashion about this particular Council policy. It was believed that the process they had last year using Scrutiny to look at it and bring it back to Scrutiny again for a review was an example of how Scrutiny should be used in a modern local authority. To everyone's credit, they were willing to participate in that process

Sports Activity

Karen Creavin, Head of Birmingham Wellbeing Services gave a PowerPoint presentation on the *Cross Sector Collaboration on physical activity – changing behaviour at a City level ...*

(See document No 2)

Ms Creavin gave the following summary: -

- a. There was now an active citizenship agenda emerging out of the work that the last Overview and Scrutiny Committee triggered. The range of partners invited to the table – Sport Birmingham, Sport England, universities and street games amongst others was a real helpful focus.
- b. As a group of organisation mandated to go off and generate some activity on behalf of the Scrutiny Committee, they had worked well together and there was a whole range of work that was being done which had cemented the relationship and had accelerated everyone's expectation on progress.
- c. They now had an active citizenship agenda emerging which would be one of the things they would be doing over the next 3 -4 months to

develop an Active Citizenship Strategy ideally for the City, but their aspiration for the longer term would be for the region. Birmingham should lead the work for this across the region for active citizenship. It was an important Birmingham gift; they had a great legacy that they should build on.

- d. There was a strain of work that was coming out clearly and articulated increasingly around community cohesion and promoting resilience with physical activity. It was one of the unintended consequences of the work that they were doing. Sport England was excited about this and had committed some resource to the City to help develop some matrix which was a direct response to the assistance they had from the Deputy Leader, Councillor Ward and the earlier Committee.
- e. They had 50,000 people participating in Active Parks last year and there were now at least 20 Active Parks in a city in Poland. They were excited about this and had told Warsaw and Krakow and they had been asked to extend the work that they did in the Polish City with other cities as they were looking to implement an Active Parks programme. It was important in Poland as they got some EU funding for some state of the art equipment, but what they did not see was the people using them and was concerned about physical activities in their cities.
- f. They had a pilot of active streets and a proof concept piece of work that was being done this year. They had an Active Street with a number of streets in the City and had built on the work that the streets had played in the previous years. Over 108 people attended for one of these sessions and there was a range of Active Street road closures being done over the winter and during Christmas. People wanted to close off their street and do physical activities together. With colleagues from Highways they had found a way to do this.
- g. National governing bodies and other organisations such as the Department for Work and Pension and others were interested in the model as there were a number of things they wanted to take as locally as they could to people, not just physical activity. There was real potential for this going forward.
- h. In terms of the Big Birmingham Bikes, they were showing someone something from the EU and he heard about the Big Birmingham Bikes and advised that there was an innovation fund that would be made available later in December 2015 that they could bid for.
- i. Collaboration was striving and there was a wide range of initiatives going on to the point where they needed to be consolidating the work.
- j. The Deputy Leader made reference to the Saheli group of women in particular one lady who had started running as she was in danger of getting diabetes.

- k. This could make a significant difference to people's health and this activity could play a major role in community cohesion and breaking down the barriers between the different communities in the City. This was an agenda that he was keen to get onto with all the sporting initiatives. 31 of the Saheli women ran in the Birmingham Half Marathon the last time a number of which had gone on to become run leaders and were leaders of other groups.
- l. Part of the arrangement with Sports England was that the money they draw down was on the back of the promise the City made to them that they could change the makeup of mass participation run in the City by encouraging more of the multi-ethnic communities to participate. It was about attracting funds and was probably the best relation of any City with Sports England. They had to take funding from whatever source they could and ensure that the balance was struck.
- m. The criticism on deals on Parks with Coco Cola - Park Lives and they had to strike that balance with promoting something that people considered to be unhealthy against what they could do get people active and how far they could push people. This was about creating the Active Citizen. If they could get many more people active and part of their deal with Sports England was to get 100,000 people active and if they could get more people active it would prove that they could have healthier citizens.

At this juncture, (The Chairman declared his non-pecuniary interest as he had benefited from the Active Parks project). He paid tribute to Ms Creavin and her team and the Deputy Leader and stated that here was a project that not only got the City national recognition, but international recognition. He added that his only criticism was that they should have been telling the story a long time ago.

In response to questions from Members, Ms Creavin made the following statements: -

- 1. Ms Creavin undertook to provide figures for across the region and advised that every quarter Sports England release the Active People Survey. In terms of partnering with agencies for more help and support, this work was on-going and they had done some work with health and other agencies that they should be partnering with to sort the opportunity out for more sponsorship. They were acutely aware of this particularly with the Big Birmingham Bikes. Any help for this Committee would be gratefully received. They were also linked to the Birmingham Wellbeing Board.
- 2. The point concerning civic leaders was important and this was something she would like to have 40 more Naseem Akhtar of. The Saheli women were now working closely with them and they had commissioned Saheli to deliver some outcomes on behalf of the City Council. She would like to do this with other organisations also and early discussions were had in

getting a scheme up and running to do that and they were keen to progress this further.

3. Ms Creavin noted Councillor Finnegan's comment concerning social inclusion and stated that she was in agreement with the points made. One of the things they were beginning to build in now was the expectations to planning this – the wrap around type – for the activities. They use volunteers for this, but it was that someone there to meet and greet and to encourage people to join in and then someone there with a thermos flask and a few biscuits to have a chat.
4. The significance of this had been underestimated and they were beginning to lift their head out of 'we were doing this for health and equalities' purpose and begin to widen the arena. It was that social isolation that would need to be linking people back to the community; helping to facilitate social responsibility and was an added value to anything that was happening.
5. There was something about the informality of doing this in a public park that allows people to behave differently with each other. Having these principles would encourage people to stay and make these activities important when they were designing it in.
6. Designing it in partnership was an important key as the relationship leant onto Councillor Bridle's comment concerning working with Place Managers and understanding the landscape. They were now going into their third year of Active Parks and this was phenomenal.
7. The lessons learnt from the community and the residents were golden and there was always scope to do it better. They went from 5 parks to when they were proving the concept to 80 parks this year. Part of the impetus was getting on and getting them out, but this meant that they could do the communication better and to ensure that all 80 parks had proper ... as they did not always get to them.
8. There were things that they could do more to engage in Place as they tended to work with specific groups to set up a programme of activities. With extra time on the ground they could find out that they were running the same activity as someone else down the road at the same time. There were ways that better partnership working would help them to be more focused going into year three.
9. In terms of Be Active, specifically around the Be Active hours the sites that went into the framework, was negotiated as part of the contract with Serco that they would continue the Be Active hours, but there was only a minimum requirement within the contract.
10. The minimum requirement was one hour per day of gym and swimming. They began to 'push back' on some of the hours, but there was initially a suggestion that they would do this in their 'dead time' which was inconvenient to most people. They were pushing back at that, but there

was a minimum requirement in there. Unfortunately, the way things were in terms of the contracts they were just delivering the minimum.

11. With more money, they could pay them for more hours and it was hoped that once the refurbishment was done and they begin to feel that they were running centres that generate more profit, the Council would be keen to push them on doing more than the minimum.
12. As the Council's relationship with Serco increases, they would be able to push on this point. They were trying to ensure that they got the most hours in the parts of the City where people need those hours the most and this was the point that the service being universal was being targeted. Wherever people live in the City, the message was that they could travel to any of the centres and use it for free. They were not restricted from accessing other centres.
13. Ms Creavin noted Councillor Wood's comment concerning children walking to school and stated that they were piloting a mile a day with a couple of schools that had expressed an interest with a view to starting it with other schools. They were working with schools to ensure they were embedding this as quickly as possible.
14. A number of things were being done with schools as well as encouraging a couple of schools to start an active schools approach which was where they use the school facilities to undertake activities out of hours. Research had shown that although it was important to do things with children, you had to do things with the family as well otherwise the things that the children do would fall by the wayside.
15. The point regarding pedometers was excellent. What they piloted in Cotteridge was an initiative called *Beat the Street* for 6 months where all children were given a card that they touched against a lamppost that had a card reader. They had points for walking and they were entered into a competition and could donate those points back to the school or they and their family have those points to offset it against vouchers. This had proved popular.
16. They were in discussions with the same organisation as they had done a number of pilots elsewhere in the country where they had taken small towns and the whole town had participated. They recently had discussions with them to see if they could run a pilot in Sandwell Valley Park for these reasons. She undertook to keep the Committee updated on this proposal.
17. In terms of the pedometers, they had just being getting these and then there was a bit of funding around this and the leader board that could make it a competition. Evidence shows that initiatives like this worked well, particularly where they had an identified community. They were keen to do this and to link it pragmatically with schools where there were parking issues. The wider social benefits were good. She undertook to take this away and report back to a future Committee.

18. Walk 2000 was still popular and was still being used and was something to be built on. The 5k programme they have in the City was a walk, jog, run programme that builds on the Walk 2000 programme. A lot of the routes were being used and the concept of Walk 2000 was useful. The Lord Mayor leading on something would be fantastic and was something that would be considered.
19. In terms of competitive sports, there was something about part of their remit where the local authority encourages relationship and people to claim the answers for themselves. They could do work to help people facilitate football matches for example and then take on themselves in doing a long run, but the City Council might need to do some brokering at the beginning.
20. One of the challenges with Active Parks was where they had people coming in and were used to being regularly active, there was now a gap between the 'perpetual beginners' and the Club structure that was in the City who wanted people to be elite athletes. There was a gap between people who were coming and had done this for 6 months and had liked it and a Club that wanted them to become faster or better or play harder. There was the bit in the middle which needed to be addressed.
21. Our role as a local authority was to broker the kind of community responses to that. Places like Holford Drive, could be a good example of where this might work well with additional support.
22. Walking football was popular for older men who were a bit socially isolated, but still wanted to 'hang out with the lads' and have a go. It was the Council's responsibility to help provide a range of possible solutions for communities to 'pick up and run with'.
23. They had aspirations within the Coco Cola contract that by the end of year 4, they would have over 100 parks. They will struggle to keep demand down in 100 this summer as the reality was that resource permitting, they would be in as many as they could. What will happen increasingly was that they would move beyond parks as the Active Street pilot was 'bumping' into spaces around the flats or streets – it will get difficult to count what was a park or a street. The aspiration was to service as many communities as they could with this approach.
24. With regard to the links with Park Run, their partnership working could be better and they do try to link up with the Park Run as much as possible. They had a particular model that worked well and they try and feed into the Park Run. The work they were doing with Sports England and their running partners were to add more to that. The links with Park Run could be better and they had a plan to do so.
25. In relation to the payment for Be Active, this was negotiated into the contract for free. They were not paying Serco for the minimum hours. In the long run there was a return on investment opportunity with Serco

payments. It could be that once they started to generate profit, they take this in additional Be Active hours. These were things that would be explored as they go along.

26. The Be Active hours did not cost the Council anything as they were negotiated as part of the contract with Serco. The sites that they support were the Wellbeing sites and were funded by the Wellbeing Service budget and they were not reimbursing them in that way

27. Ms Creavin noted Councillor Lal's comment and advised that she was in agreement concerning the holistic approach in terms of a persons' wellbeing including diet and that they had built this into the programme and there was scope to do more.

The Deputy Leader then made the following statements: -

- I. The Deputy Leader made reference to a scheme whereby they could offer people longer lunch breaks if in return they undertake some physical activity during the lunch break. Instead of having an hour's lunch, they have an hour and a half and do 45 minutes of physical activity and then take their lunch break. This may be something they could start by rolling it out in the City Council.
- II. One of the barriers to physical exercises was because people had to do it on their own. It was far easier to do these things if there was a group of people doing it together. Some of the other things being done around sports were the elite sport events that were being brought to the City and was part of the offer for people.
- III. People who took up sport then become interested in the elite end from the spectator view point. More importantly on the health agenda were the mass participation events and the 5K where they were required to collect the data as they had to get 100 000 people to do the running over the next few years. This was then linked in with the 10k event that will be hosted in May 2016, the Half Marathon in autumn and a proposition that was on the table that the City might in the future have a full marathon.
- IV. The subsidy for this was being negotiated with the hospitality industry in the City in order that there would be no Council subsidy. This was very much the mass participation event and the elite sporting events that were being brought into the City. This was increasingly about doing deals with the private sector and others in order that they could host these things without the City Council's subsidy.
- V. The London Marathon had over a quarter of a million people apply each year and just over 36,000 people could take part in it. These runners currently did not go anywhere else and it would be interesting to see whether they could start attracting some of these runners.

- VI. Another event they were working on was the Cycle Festival and attached to this was the sport at its longest range was 170km of closed roads which would attract a lot of interest. Some of the people who had the Big Birmingham Bikes and had recently taken up cycling would be encouraged to take part in the closed roads in the City. This was part of reclaiming the streets in the City Centre on certain days.
- VII. This was another mass participation event that was being brought to Birmingham with nil Council subsidies. They have partnered with Action Sport World in Erdington to host the Indoor Cricket World Masters in October 2016 at no cost to the City Council.
- VIII. Great Britain winning the Davis Cup – they will play their first game in defending the Cup at the Barclay Card Arena, Birmingham which was another event coming into the City with nil Council subsidy.

The Annual Audit Letter

The Deputy Leader advised that this would be the second year that the City Council had produced its annual accounts in line with the Statutory Timetable and would hit the statutory deadline of the 30th June. He drew the Committee's attention to the information on page 3 of the report and advised that the officers were commended for the change of Bankers that was done in what was described by the auditors as a well-managed way and the National Exhibition Centre sale. The auditors stated that this also was a well-managed process and this was to the credit of officers in the Finance Department that they managed to achieve those things.

The Deputy Leader drew the attention of the Committee to the Qualified Value for Money Conclusion on an accept for basis and the exceptions were set out on pages 5 and 6 of the auditor's letter. From page 7 onwards, the key issues/recommendations which were moving in the right direction. There was some reference in the audit letter to the Kerslake report and the Equal Pay provision which the Council was still under pressure to meet.

The audit fee was set out on page 7 of the document plus VAT was the same as the previous year.

Sarah Dunlavy, Assistant Director, Financial Services advised that the auditor's fees were significantly lower than they were a few years ago. This had been reducing each year and this year's was held the same as the previous one.

Grant Thornton was obliged to state everything that they sold to the Council. Finance Birmingham and the Innovation Birmingham were commissioned directly by those companies and not by Birmingham City Council. The Group Governance Review was commissioned by the City Council and would be reported later. In terms of the Grant Claims, these use to be done within the main fee, but now they had the choice of whichever auditors they wanted to use and they had chosen Grant Thornton in this case.

The Deputy Leader advised that the consultation would begin this week and there was a briefing of the press on the 9 December 2015 on the budget. The recommendation picked up on the Kerslake recommendation that the City Council had to have a balanced position for 2016/17 and 2017/18 .

The Chairman thanked Councillor I Ward, Karen Creavin, Chris Gibbs, Sarah Dunlavy and Georgina Foxwell for attending the meeting.

43

RESOLVED:-

That the report be noted.

**CORPORATE RESOURCES OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY COMMITTEE
WORK PROGRAMME 2015-16**

The following work programme was submitted:-

(See document No 3)

Councillor Brew

Emma Williamson, Head of Scrutiny Services, advised that the work programme was for noting. She stated that for the next Committee meeting in January 2016, Property Services will be presenting a report. She enquired if there was anything Members wanted to pick upon for the meeting that she could fore warn officers to provide an overview for.

Councillor Brew commented that he would prefer to start with a general question an overview and then cascade down. He stated that there were certain aspects that each Member would want to have a look at as they sees the report and goes through it.

Ms Williamson advised that the February Committee meeting would focus on the Proposed Inquiry around Districts and Wards arrangement. She added that if Members had particular views on what they wanted to focus on and also who they should be speaking to she would be grateful for this information so that they could plan this ready for February.

The Chairman commented that if Members read the Chamberlain Files they would have seen comments attributed to Councillor John Clancy, Leader of the City Council around devolution and some of his other ideas. It was possible that there was a Devolution Board or something around devolution that he wanted to initiate in the near future. If the Committee was happy, he would have discussions with the Leader in respect of those ideas and to see if the February meeting that they would have would complement what he and his team was doing or to seek direction where or to link into what they would be doing.

44

RESOLVED:-

That the work programme be noted.

REQUEST(S) FOR CALL IN/COUNCILLOR CALL FOR ACTION/PETITIONS RECEIVED (IF ANY)

- 45 The Chairman advised that there had been no requests for call in/councillor call for action/petitions received.
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AUTHORITY TO CHAIRMAN AND OFFICERS

- 46 **RESOLVED:-**

That in an urgent situation between meetings the Chair, jointly with the relevant Chief Officer, has authority to act on behalf of the Committee.

EXCLUSION OF THE PUBLIC

- 47 **RESOLVED:-**

That in view of the nature of the business to be transacted which includes exempt information of the category indicated the public be now excluded from the meeting:-

Minutes – Exempt Paragraph 3

PRIVATE MINUTES

MINUTES

- 48 The private part of the Minutes of the meeting held on 21 and 27 October 2015, along with the public parts of the Minutes considered earlier in the meeting having been previously circulated, was agreed.
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The meeting ended at 1600 hours.

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CHAIRMAN