

CAERPHILLY COUNTY BOROUGH COUNCIL

SCRUTINY MANAGEMENT PANEL

MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD AT THE COUNCIL OFFICES, TREDOMEN ON THURSDAY, 16TH DECEMBER 2004 AT 5P.M.

PRESENT:

Councillor K.V. Reynolds – Chairman

Councillors:

Mrs C. Forehead, D.M. Gray, Miss A. Morgan, Mrs R. Passmore, A.S. Williams and T.J. Williams

Together with:

T. Peppin (Head of Policy and Central Services) and J. Jones (Scrutiny Co-ordinator)

1. APOLOGIES

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors Mrs E. Aldworth, Ms E.E. Forehead and K. James, and from Miss S. Allen (Scrutiny Research Officer).

2. APPROVAL OF MINUTES 15TH NOVEMBER 2004 AND MATTERS ARISING

The Minutes were moved and approved as accurate. Mr Jones provided the following update on the actions arising from the previous meeting:

- **ACTION – Mr C Jones to circulate risk assessment report to members**
(Action carried forward from 15th November)
This report has been received by the Scrutiny Support Unit and will be distributed at the next meeting of the Panel.
- **ACTION – Mr Jones to produce a report on financial reporting at Scrutiny Committees**
Mr Jones explained that due to the complexity of this report it would be presented at the next meeting of the Panel.
- **ACTION – Scrutiny Support Unit to circulate Task and Finish Group Guidance to all Task and Finish Group members**
Ongoing – The guidance is included in information packs distributed at Task and Finish Group meetings.
- **ACTION – Scrutiny Support Unit to present the Audit Commission Report on the Modernisation Focus Groups findings to the Scrutiny Management Panel on 16th December 2004**
This has been completed and is at agenda item 4.
- **ACTION – Scrutiny Support Unit to present the completed scrutiny web pages to the Scrutiny Management Panel prior to publication on the internet**
This is at agenda item 3, and will be deferred to the next meeting of the Panel.

3. SCRUTINY WEB-PAGES PRESENTATION

This item of business was deferred to the next meeting of the Panel.

4. PROPOSALS FOR THE REVIEW OF THE COUNCIL'S NEW POLITICAL MANAGEMENT STRUCTURES

Mr Jones reminded members that during November the Audit Commission held focus groups with members to consider the implementation of the outstanding Audit Commission recommendations in the 'Democratic Renewal' report. Members were provided with the Audit Commission's report on the issues raised in these focus groups, which was presented to the Modernisation Working Group (MWG) on 9th December.

Mr Jones outlined the common and important themes identified by the focus groups, and informed the Panel that the only proposal not endorsed by the MWG was the introduction of politically balanced Chairs and Vice-Chairs of Scrutiny Committees. Dr Peppin drew members' attention to the fact that the Minister for Local Government had recently endorsed the Local Government and Public Services Report, which recommended that the Chairs and Vice-Chairs of Scrutiny Committees should be allocated in accordance with political balance.

Finally Mr Jones informed the group that a further report detailing the proposed methods for implementing the accepted proposals is to be presented to the MWG in January 2005. The Panel was assured that this report would also be presented to them, as it will have a significant Impact on the current scrutiny system. Members agreed that a detailed report was needed.

- **ACTION – Mr Jones to present a comprehensive report on the implementation of proposed changes to the Corporate Management Team, the Modernisation Working Group and the Scrutiny Management Panel**

Members queried the impact of re-aligning the Scrutiny Committee portfolios in line with the Community Strategy on budget reporting and monitoring arrangements. The issue of where 'leisure' would sit under the new arrangements was also raised. Mr Jones agreed to incorporate these concerns and possible solutions in the forthcoming detailed report.

Members welcomed the accepted proposals for change, and approved the report.

5. CALL IN OF DELEGATED EXECUTIVE DECISIONS

Mr Jones informed members that as part of the modernisation process, the Delegated Powers Scheme is under review.

Mr Jones briefly outlined the proposed method for calling-in delegated Executive decisions. Members agreed the scheme in principle, and requested that the issue be brought back to the Panel after it is presented to the MWG in January for further consideration and debate.

- **ACTION – Issue of call-in of delegated Executive decisions to be brought to the next meeting of the Scrutiny Management Panel**

6. ANY OTHER BUSINESS

No others items of business were raised.

7. DATE OF NEXT MEETING

The date of the next Scrutiny Management Panel is 10th February 2005, at 5pm in Committee Room 4.