

**MINUTES OF A MEETING OF THE SCRUTINY COMMITTEE A HELD AT COUNCIL CHAMBER - COUNTY HALL, LLANDRINDOD WELLS, POWYS ON MONDAY, 9 APRIL 2018**

**PRESENT**

County Councillors G I S Williams (Chair), K W Curry, E Durrant, E Jones, G Jones, J Pugh, D Selby and A Williams

Officers: Wyn Richards, Head of Democratic Services and Scrutiny Manager, Elizabeth Patterson and Lisa Richards, Scrutiny Officers

Other Officers In Attendance: Justine Morgan and Ian Phillips, WAO

**JOINT MEETING WITH SCRUTINY COMMITTEE B**

**1. JOINT SCRUTINY CORPORATE LEADERSHIP AND GOVERNANCE PLAN**

**Documents:**

- Scrutiny summary report

**Outcome:**

- **Monitoring of the implementation of the plan would be timetabled as required**

**2. SCRUTINY COMMITTEE STRUCTURE**

The Head of Democratic Services explained that the recent CIW Inspection had found scrutiny to be ineffective and that change was necessary. Consideration was being given to restructuring the Scrutiny Committees to improve effectiveness. Members were invited to share their experiences of scrutiny since the elections in 2017. It was suggested that the new structures should reflect the priorities in Vision 2025.

**Issues identified included:**

- The two committees are too large
- Some Members do not attend scrutiny. This was of concern to those Members who do attend regularly
- Third sector and members of public with relevant experience should be invited to take part
- Increasing the number of scrutiny committees from 2 to 4 with a smaller membership may be appropriate
- These 4 scrutiny committees could echo the four main areas of The Vision
- However, smaller committees coupled with poor attendance could further reduce the effectiveness of scrutiny
- Consideration should be given to having one Committee with a series of working groups. The Committee would oversee the effectiveness of the working groups

- The authority have 18 Senior Salaries (SSs) to use. Until the recent decrease of Cabinet Members from 10 to 8 all of the SSs were used. SSs were also paid to other Chairs such as Pensions and Employment and discussion was had on comparative workloads of committees
- It was confirmed that SSs could not be shared or split
- The appropriate level of scrutiny for an area of the authority was discussed. There was some opinion that insufficient scrutiny is able to be undertaken due to lack of resource. Additionally other areas may have insufficient scrutiny due to the focus being on a few areas
- Scrutiny should be undertaken in the full committee rather than working group (ie in the public arena)
- Consideration should be given to webcasting scrutiny
- Members are unclear if they should be scrutinising overall performance of a service or a particular project
- Concentration of expertise in a smaller number of Members who meet regularly could be beneficial. For example the Planning Committee has quickly gained expertise through three weekly meetings. Ad hoc scrutiny has not resulted in similar gains

The Joint Meeting adjourned for the WAO Focus Group to take place.

## **SCRUTINY COMMITTEE A RECONVENED AT 3.30PM**

### **PRESENT**

County Councillors E Durrant (Chair), K W Curry, E Jones, G Jones, J Pugh, D Selby and A Williams

Officers: Lisa Richards, Scrutiny Officer

Other Officers in Attendance: Ian Phillips, WAO

<b>1. APOLOGIES</b>
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Apologies for absence were received from County Councillor G Morgan and G I S Williams.

<b>2. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST</b>
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There were no declarations of interest.

<b>3. DECLARATIONS OF PARTY WHIPS</b>
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There were no declarations of Party Whips.

<b>4. MINUTES</b>
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### **Documents:**

- Minutes of meeting held on 14 December 2017

**Outcome:**

- **The Chair was authorised to sign the minutes of the last meeting as a correct record**

<b>5.</b>	<b>WORKING GROUPS</b>
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**5.1 Adult Social Care**

**Documents:**

- Scrutiny summary report

**Outcome:**

- **The summary report detailing topics considered up to 1 March 2018 was noted**

**5.2 North Powys Office Accommodation**

**Documents:**

- Scrutiny summary report

**Outcomes:**

- **Noted**

<b>6.</b>	<b>JOINT CHAIRS AND VICE CHAIRS' STEERING GROUP</b>
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**Documents:**

- Notes of meetings held on 5 December 2017 and 9 January 2018

**Discussion:**

- Members were unclear as to the role and remit of the Joint Chairs Steering Group or the outcomes emanating from the Group
- The Committee believed it should set its own work programme
- The Committee have asked to scrutinize Heart of Wales Property Services but have been advised that this cannot happen until the first annual report has been issued. Members believe that scrutiny should be undertaken sooner rather than later to enable Members to scrutinize the Annual Report more effectively.

**Outcome:**

- **The Vice Chair of the Committee agreed to feed Members concerns to the Joint Chairs and Vice Chair's Steering Group at their next meeting on 10 April 2018**

<b>7.</b>	<b>WORK PROGRAMME</b>
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**Documents:**

- Work Programme

**Outcome:**

- **Noted**

<b>8.</b>	<b>CORRESPONDENCE</b>
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There were no items of correspondence.

**County Councillor G I S Williams (Chair)**