

NOTES OF A MEETING OF THE JOINT CHAIRS AND VICE-CHAIRS STEERING GROUP – SCRUTINY, AUDIT AND DEMOCRATIC SERVICES COMMITTEES

25th OCTOBER 2013 – COUNTY HALL, LLANDRINDOD WELLS

PRESENT: County Councillors R.G. Thomas (Chair).
County Councillors W.T. Jones, E M Jones, A W Davies.

Officers:

Peter Jones (Programme Office Manager), Wyn Richards (Scrutiny Manager) Liz Patterson and Lisa Richards (Scrutiny Officers).

1. Apologies

Members:

County Councillors Mrs M Mackenzie, Mrs S Davies and T. Turner.

Officers:

Jeremy Patterson (Chief Executive), David Powell (Strategic Director – Resources), Nick Philpott (Director – Change and Governance), Sue Simpson (Partnership and Policy Manager).

2. Notes of Last Meeting

Documents Considered:

- 7th October, 2013

Issues Discussed:

- The County Farms review is currently on hold pending the new appointee as manager commencing in post around Christmas 2013. The costs for this manager's post is to be paid by authorities in Wales.
- The comments relating to the Annual Improvement Report had been included in the final version of the report. Some of the comments made related to the non-achievement of outcomes in the previous rather than the current year.

Outcomes:

- **Received**

3. Developing the Statement of Intent.

Documents Considered:

- LSB Forum – 20th September, 2013 – Attendee Pack.

Issues Discussed:

- Presentation received from Peter Jones – Programme Office Manager.
- Information is being collected by the end of October. A large element of the information for the drafting of the Statement of Intent is contained in the Strategic Joint Needs Assessment.
- This work is around the development of a single plan which links strategically the Powys Change Plan and other organisational plans as required under the Welsh Government's document "Shared Purpose, Shared Delivery". This document drew together other legislation and requires the creation of a Single Integrated Plan.

- Previously Service Improvement Plans led to the creation of the Powys Change Plan which then linked to other organisational plans by means of the One Powys Plan. The new plan will be a multi agency transformational plan and process.
- The Future Generations Bill (formerly the Sustainable Development Bill) is due for approval around 2016 which will develop the Single Integrated Plan. For public sector organisations the One Powys Plan is not on their radar and have not been involved initially in its development. The previous plan was a multi agency approach rather than a transformational plan.
- The Single Integrated Plan 2014-17 is based on a needs analysis and joint working between the various agencies. There is also a need for more tangible and clear outcomes.
- With a single integrated plan decision making continues to rest with the individual organisation.
- The Strategic Joint Needs Assessment links the information from the various organisations. The review has highlighted that there are opportunities to bring the different teams from organisations together as a single virtual team. The Strategic Joint Needs Assessment will identify the high level needs for Powys that will require a collaborative effort to resolve.
- The assessment undertaken in 2011 led to the encouragement of silo mentality. A life course methodology was used for the current assessment to try and identify connections across services.
- Multi agency workshops and forums have been held to identify priorities. This work will not be finalised until the new Single Integrated Plan is signed off in March 2014.
- The assessment has assisted in identifying the well being areas and the outcome statements. Information was then scored against a matrix (Moderate / Substantial / Critical together with mitigation) which then led to the identification of the priority areas.
- The Statement of Intent will be considered by the Cabinet on 3rd December, 2013. The focus areas will be determined by then. There will be an initial discussion between the Cabinet and Management Team on 5th November, a Member Development Session on 22nd November, and consideration of the Statement of Intent by the Joint Chairs on 29th November.

Outcomes:

- **Presentation received.**

4. Assessments of Work Programme Items.

Documents Considered:

- Overview received.

Issues Discussed:

- School transport – will be considered by the Education Working Group but currently there is a lack of capacity to deal with this. Special Schools will also be dealt with as part of the work by this Working Group.
- Section 106 Agreement Reviews to be added to the list of active groups.
- Consultants – definition of what is a consultant required clarification. Hays Consultants – were supposed to look at senior management and then the management team was supposed to review lower levels of management.

Outcomes:

- **Feedback report on active reviews to next meeting.**
- **Chief Executive / Director of Change and Governance be asked to advise Joint Chairs about current role of Hays Group within the Council and the use of consultants generally within the Council.**
- **That a review of the use of consultants should not be undertaken until further clarification on the use of consultants had been received from the Chief Executive / Director of Change and Governance.**

5. Discussion with Chief Executive regarding potential Scrutiny Items.

This item was not considered.

6. Local Service Board

Documents Considered:

- None.

Issues Discussed:

- Chair of Environment, Infrastructure and Crime and Disorder Scrutiny Committee attended the last meeting – items considered included a discussion on partnership rationalisation; “back to the floor”; organisational development plan; public service newspaper; designated persons order; Annual Improvement Letter from the Wales Audit Office.
- Scrutinising the Local Service Board – challenging the One Powys Plan and its delivery will add value to the scrutinising of the Local Service Board and the improvement agenda. The move from the change programme to a multi agency programme will be how scrutiny will be involved.
- Scrutiny of the Neighbourhood Management Pilot project – the Environment, Infrastructure and Crime and Disorder Scrutiny Committee has programmed to review the key deliverables following the pilot project being completed.

Outcomes:

- **Noted**

7. Dates of future meetings

- 29 November 2013
- 24 January 2014
- 21 March 2014
- 16 May 2014
- 18 July 2014
- 19 September 2014
- 14 November 2014

8. LSB Meeting Dates

- 16 January, 2014
- 13 February, 2014
- 13 March, 2014
- 12 June 2014
- 25 September 2014

- 11 December 2014

9. Any Other Business.

Documents Considered:

- None.

Issues Discussed:

- A peer review has been commissioned with the support of the WLGA with regard to the financial management of Social Care. This will be a 4 day review and the Council will receive feedback following the review.
- The scrutiny of budgets and performance needs to be revisited. The Scrutiny Manager is to discuss this issue with the Strategic Director (Resources) and possibly then a meeting could be held with the Chairs of Scrutiny and Audit to discuss this matter.

Outcomes:

- **Noted**

**County Councillor R.G. Thomas
Chair**