

**MINUTES OF A MEETING OF THE
COMMUNITY PARTNERSHIPS OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY COMMITTEE
HELD ON 15 JUNE 2015 FROM 7.00 PM TO 8.10 PM**

Committee Members Present

Councillors: Shahid Younis (Chairman), Dianne King (Vice-Chairman), David Sleight, Lindsay Ferris, Michael Firmager, Abdul Loyes and Bill Soane

Other Councillors Present

Councillors: Tim Holton

Officers Present

Tricia Harcourt, Senior Democratic Services Officer

1. APOLOGIES

No apologies had been submitted.

2. MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING

The Minutes of the meeting held on 11 March 2015, were confirmed as a correct record and signed by the Chairman.

3. DECLARATION OF INTEREST

It was noted that all Members were representatives on at least one Outside Body.

4. PUBLIC QUESTION TIME

There were no public questions.

5. MEMBER QUESTION TIME

There were no Members questions.

6. REVIEW OF OUTSIDE BODIES

The Committee received and considered a report from Brain Grady, Head of Strategic Commissioning Children and Adults, giving an update on the review of the accountability and reporting structure of the voluntary and community organisations that are working in partnership with the Council, which included some of the organisations on the list of Outside Bodies.

Members were pleased to see that a review of the work of voluntary and community sector organisations is being carried out by the Deputy Executive Member for Regeneration and Communities to give councillors visibility of voluntary and community activity in the Borough.

However they felt that the report did not give them the information they required around funding. A list of Outside Bodies indicating those that received some financial support from the Council had been previously presented to the Committee, but no details of the actual amounts had been obtained.

Dianne King said that in a previous role within the Council, she had been involved in reviewing applications for funding from outside organisations, with recommendations being put to Executive for approval.

More recently this work had been taken on by the Giving Partnership, but that body had now been disbanded.

Members questioned how the allocation of funding to outside organisations was made and what was the level of funding provided. There should be transparency as to who made such decisions and how they were made.

It was noted that the Outside Bodies Directory gave information about each of the bodies/organisation on the list where the appointment of representatives was made at Annual Council. The information given included details of the legal status; aims/objectives; status of the Council's representative; and financial status of the organisations. The Directory also included a copy of the section in the Council's Constitution which set out the protocol for Councillor representation on Outside Bodies, and the requirement for an annual report of their representation to Council.

There was some discussion as to whether there were other organisations where Members served as representatives of the Council that should be included on the Outside Bodies list. It was pointed out that the only bodies/organisations in the list were those where the appointment of representatives were made by Council. In some instances, Members served on panels/boards where the appointment was made by the Leader as his representative.

There was still some confusion as to the definition of 'Outside Bodies' and 'Various Bodies'. It was explained the 'outside bodies' were those where organisations, external to the Council's services, who had requested or were required to have, a Council representative to serve on their management committees etc.

It was suggested that they should be renamed 'External Bodies', and any organisation with an external focus, where a Member is represented, should be included in the list, irrespective of how they are appointed, so that their activities can be reported.

RESOLVED: That the following recommendations be passed to the Leader of Council and the Executive Member for Regeneration and Communities for consideration:

- 1) Change the name of the 'Outside Bodies' list to 'External Bodies'.
- 2) Add to the list any organisation that has an external focus which has a Member representation.
- 3) Seek clarity on how funding or grants are made to outside bodies: who makes the decisions and the amounts allocated. An annual report should be made to Executive on the allocations.

A report on progress be made to the new joint Overview & Scrutiny Committee at its meeting in September.

7. CHANGES TO THE OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY COMMITTEE STRUCTURE

The Committee received a report regarding the changes to the structure of the Overview and Scrutiny Committees, set out on Agenda pages 19 to 22.

The report asked the Committee to note the recommendation of the Overview & Scrutiny Management Committee to Council that the Community Partnerships Overview and

Scrutiny Committee be disbanded and its functions transferred to the Corporate services Overview & Scrutiny Committee, which will be renamed to reflect the additional functions.