

Corporate and Customer Overview and Scrutiny Panel - Efficiency Gains Sub-Group

Wednesday, 26 September 2007

Present: Councillors David Dickinson, Kevin Joyce and Geoffrey Russell

Also in attendance: James Douglas (Business Improvement Manager) and Ruth Hawes (Assistant Democratic Services Officer)

7. APPOINTMENT OF CHAIR

It was AGREED that Councillor Geoffrey Russell take the Chair for the meeting.

8. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies for absence were submitted on behalf of Councillors Stella Walsh (Chair), Henry Counce, Michael Davies, Mike Devaney, Keith Iddon, Thomas McGowan and Mick Muncaster.

9. DECLARATIONS OF ANY INTERESTS

There were no declarations of interest by Members relating to the items on the agenda.

10. MINUTES

RESOLVED – That the minutes of the meeting of the Corporate and Customer Overview and Scrutiny Panel - Efficiency Gains Sub-Group held on 24 August 2007 be confirmed as a correct record and signed by the Chair.

11. PUBLIC QUESTIONS

No member of the public requested to speak at the meeting.

12. COLLECTION AND CONSIDERATION EVIDENCE

The Sub-Group noted the additional documentation for the Inquiry box file.

Members noted that the procurement strategy, initially intended to cover the 5 year period 2004-2009, was to be refreshed to take account of the changing demands both nationally and locally.

Members discussed the report entitled Achieving Value for Money considered by the Executive Cabinet in May 2007 and noted that an updated report, including the Use of Resources Value for Money 2007 self-assessment, would be presented to Executive Cabinet early on 4th October. It was AGREED that this report be forwarded to the Sub-Group.

The Sub-Group considered the document “Transforming Local Government in Lancashire” and commended its aspirations.

It was noted that Chorley had been invited to be one of 30 councils involved in a national case study for the Audit Commission, looking at back office efficiency gains achieved by local government.

13. THE WAY FORWARD

The Sub-Group AGREED that officers should draft an action plan for the Inquiry based on the scoping document.

A report apportioning efficiencies against the directorates making the gains was requested for presentation to a future meeting to identify any areas of concern or praise.

All Directors would be requested to give feedback to the Sub-Group. Officers would set up the dates for the sessions.

The Efficiency Statements for the other two District Councils who had achieved a score of 4 for Value for Money assessments in 2006 and the Councils within the Audit Commission's "Family Group" will be accessed for comparison purposes and identification of apparent good practice. It was AGREED that outcomes from this assessment be presented to a future meeting.

14. INQUIRY DOCUMENTATION

The Sub-Group considered the Inquiry documentation and AGREED the additions to the Information and Witness checklists.

15. DATES OF FUTURE MEETINGS

- Mon 22 Oct at 2.00
- Wed 28 Nov at 6.30
- Wed 12 Dec at 6.30
- Wed 30 Jan at 6.30
- Wed 27 Feb at 6.30

Chair