

COUNCILLORS

Boyd Elliott (Chairman) - **apologies**
Glynn Gilfoyle (Vice-Chairman)

Steve Carr - **apologies**
Jim Creamer
Kate Foale
Roger Jackson
Eric Kerry
Nigel Moxon

John Ogle
Philip Owen
Francis Purdue-Horan
Dave Shaw - **apologies**
Sam Smith

SUBSTITUTE MEMBERS

Councillor Richard Butler (substitute for Councillor Boyd Elliott)
Councillor John Wilmott (substitute for Councillor Dave Shaw)

OFFICERS

Sara Allmond	Advanced Democratic Services Officer
Martin Elliott	Senior Scrutiny Officer
Isobel Fleming	Service Director, Transformation and Change
Nigel Stevenson	Service Director, Finance, Infrastructure and Improvement
Marjorie Toward	Service Director, Customers, Governance and Employees

CHAIRMAN

In the absence of the Chairman Councillor Boyd Elliott, Vice-Chairman Glynn Gilfoyle chaired the meeting.

1. MINUTES OF THE LAST MEETING HELD ON 18 MAY 2023

The minutes of the meetings held on 18 May, having been circulated to all Members, were taken as read and confirmed and signed by the Chair.

2. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

- Councillor Steve Carr (other reasons)
- Councillor Boyd Elliott (other reasons) was substituted by Councillor Richard Butler
- Councillor Dave Shaw (other reasons) was substituted by Councillor John Wilmott

3. DECLARATIONS OF INTERESTS

None

4. OUTCOMES OF THE SCRUTINY REVIEW OF COUNCIL CONSULTATIONS AND RESIDENT ENGAGEMENT

The Chairman introduced the report which set out the findings of the task and finish review into Council consultations and resident engagement.

Members of the Committee made comments and asked questions:

- Members welcomed recommendation 7, as a mitigation to the fact that the Council does not have a dedicated team dealing with consultations. In response to comments about whether a dedicated team should be created, members were advised that there were resource implications with this. Consultations could be resource intensive so it was important to be clear what the purpose of the consultation was and that the consultation toolkit should be used.
- Members welcomed recommendation 8, as a way of encouraging participation in consultations and to hopefully address some of the cynicism around consultations. In response to questions of how this would be carried out in a meaningful way, members were advised that feedback would be provided wherever possible and provided in an accessible way.
- Members commented that whilst the Council has a higher level of response rates than many Councils, it was still low.
- In response to questions regarding engagement with under 18s and digital consultation members were advised that the under 18 age bracket contained all children under 18, so it was important to consider age appropriate consultation. There was a significant amount of direct digital communication already taking place, and other methods of targeting communications was being considered.
- The production of paper copies was discussed with differing views regarding the number that should be printed and how they should be distributed. It was felt that the number required would reduce over time.
- In response to comments that the Council should carry out consultations out and about in the community, Members help in engaging their local community was welcomed.

RESOLVED 2023/011

That the recommendations from the scrutiny review of resident engagement and consultation, as detailed in the report, be endorsed, and referred to Cabinet for consideration.

5. SALE OF LAND AT TOP WIGHAY – REFUSAL OF CALL-IN REQUEST

The Chairman introduced the report as required under the Constitution on the call-in request for the sale of land at Top Wighay which was refused. Members were reminded that the report was only for noting and that there would be a scrutiny review undertaken including the call-in process which members could feed their comments into.

Members of the Committee made comments and asked questions on technical matters relating to the process:

- In response to a query regarding the reference to the pre-call-in procedure and there not being enough time to carry it out, members were advised that the notification of the call-in with 7 signatures was received one and a half hours before the deadline, however the pre-call-in procedure had not been carried out which should have been undertaken before the call-in was submitted and there was not enough time to carry it out before the deadline.

Councillor John Wilmott wished to read a statement on behalf of Councillor Dave Shaw regarding the decision not to allow the call-in. The Chairman did not allow this to happen as it did not relate to technical matters in relation to the call-in procedure and because the explanation to his issue had already been provided in the letter by the Monitoring Officer. Councillor Wilmott asked that his disagreement with the Chairman's decision be recorded.

RESOLVED 2023/011

That Overview Committee notes the call-in request that was made in relation to the decision taken by the Cabinet Member for Economic Development and Asset Management on the Sale of Land at Top Wighay and the response from the Monitoring Officer refusing the request.

6. SCRUTINY WORK PROGRAMMES

The Senior Scrutiny Officer introduced the Committee's current work programme. The work programmes for each of the select committees were also appended to the report. Members were advised that the new work programmes would be prepared during August and were asked to submit any ideas for the work programme they had directly to the Senior Scrutiny Officer.

Members asked that the following items be considered for the 2023/24 work programmes:-

- Top Wighay Office – in relation to how much the costs have changed, expected delivery and the plans for internal changes to the building
- Cost of Living – not just for Adult Social Care and Public Health Select but also for Children and Families Select Committee

RESOLVED 2023/012

- 1) That the Overview Committee work programme be noted.

- 2) That the work programme of the three select committees be noted.
- 3) That the items proposed for future work programmes would be considered for inclusion

The meeting closed at 11.29am

CHAIRMAN