

## **Overview & Scrutiny Panel**

**Wednesday 9 December 2009**

**5.30pm in Council Chamber, Grosvenor House, Corby**

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**Present:** Councillors Bromhall (Chair), Beeby, Butcher, Massie, O'Brien and Woolmer

**Parish Representative:** Dryden Phillipson

### **62. Apologies for Absence**

Apologies for absence were received from Cllrs Harley, Addison, Brown, Heggs, McGeown and Miller-Barton and from Gloria Ellenton.

### **63. Declarations of Interest**

Members were asked to declare any personal interests they may have in the business to be discussed and/or indicate whether these were prejudicial or non-prejudicial, the nature of the interest, and whether they intended participating in the relevant agenda item.

No declarations were made.

### **64. Minutes of Previous Meeting**

Members were requested to approve the minutes of the Overview and Scrutiny Panel meeting held on 4 November 2009, copies of which had been circulated.

#### **RESOLVED that:-**

The minutes of the meeting of the Overview and Scrutiny Panel held on 4 November 2009, copies of which had been circulated to Members be agreed as a correct record.

### **65. Appointment of Representative to Adult Social Care & Health Scrutiny Committee**

Members were asked to consider appointing a representative to the Adult Social Care & Health Scrutiny Committee. The Committee had the overview and scrutiny responsibilities for scrutiny of health under the Health and Social Care Act 2001 and was responsible for scrutinising and reviewing issues and services relating to health care, adult social care and adult and community learning. The Committee was made up of 11 County Councillors, together with representatives from each of the district and borough councils of Northamptonshire.

#### **RESOLVED that:**

The appointment be offered to Cllr Addison in the first instance and, if declined, to Cllr Butcher.

### **66. Agency Staff & Consultants**

Members received a report on the use of consultants and agency staff within the Council for the period 1 April 2009 to 30 September 2009. Appendices accompanying the report gave a full analysis of the Capital and Revenue expenditure on consultants and agency staff during that period. A comparison of expenditure for the last five years was included within the report and showed the ongoing general downward trend.

Total revenue expenditure on Agency staff for the period was £175,067. This represented a significant increase on the same period the previous year but most had now ended. Capital expenditure on agency staff was £15,808 which was covered within project budgets and represented a reduction of around 50% on the same period of the previous year.

Total revenue expenditure on consultants for the period was £111,735, compared to £78,988 in the previous year. Capital expenditure on consultants was £354,507, compared to £213,444 for the same period in 2008/9. The increase was mainly due to the construction of

the Cube. This expenditure was project based and covered within project budgets and related to specialist skills not available in-house.

Comparisons could not be drawn with other Councils as similar analysis and reporting was not carried out. Nevertheless, Members found the reports helpful.

**RESOLVED that:**

The contents of the report be noted.

**67. Items from Forward Plan**

The Forward Plan was updated and circulated with the agenda papers for each meeting to enable Members to select items they wished to see brought to the Panel, in addition to key policy items which were brought forward to the Panel automatically. No additional items were selected from the Forward Plan.

Members requested further information/updates on the following topics:

- Grant funding (managed by C&L);
- New Council Houses – design, management, etc;
- Sheltered Schemes – monitoring of refurbishment programme.

**68. Close of Meeting**

The meeting closed at 5.50pm.