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24 February 2015

S U M M O N S

MEETING: Overview and Scrutiny Committee
DATE: 4 March 2015
TIME: 6.00 pm
PLACE: Committee Room 1, Town Hall, Gosport
Democratic Services contact: Lisa Young

LINDA EDWARDS
BOROUGH SOLICITOR

MEMBERS OF THE BOARD

Councillor Forder (Chairman)
Councillor Geddes (Vice Chairman)

Councillor Allen	Councillor Foster-Reed
Councillor Beavis	Councillor Hazel
Councillor Mrs Cully	Councillor Mrs Hook
Councillor Farr	Councillor Hylands
Councillor Mrs Forder	Councillor Scard

FIRE PRECAUTIONS

(To be read from the Chairman if members of the public are present)

In the event of the fire alarm sounding, please leave the room immediately. Proceed downstairs by way of the main stairs or as directed by GBC staff, follow any of the emergency exit signs. People with disability or mobility issues please identify yourself to GBC staff who will assist in your evacuation of the building.

IMPORTANT NOTICE:

- If you are in a wheelchair or have difficulty in walking and require access to the Committee Room on the First Floor of the Town Hall for this meeting, assistance can be provided by Town Hall staff on request

If you require any of the services detailed above please ring the Direct Line for the Democratic Services Officer listed on the Summons (first page).

NOTE: Please note that mobile phones should be switched off or switched to silent for the duration of the meeting.

This meeting may be filmed or otherwise recorded. By attending this meeting, you are consenting to any broadcast of your image and being recorded.

AGENDA

1. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

2. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

All Members present are reminded to declare, at this point in the meeting or as soon as possible thereafter, any disclosable personal interest in any item(s) being considered at this meeting.

3. MINUTES

To confirm the Minutes of the Committee meeting held on 4 December 2014 (attached).

REPORTS TO BE RECEIVED

- 4.**
- (i) CHAIRMAN'S ANNUAL REPORT (REPORT TO FOLLOW)
 - (ii) INTERPRETATION SIGNAGE BOARDS – (VERBAL UPDATE)
 - (iii) PUBLIC ACCESS TO FORT BROCKHURST – (VERBAL UPDATE)
 - (iv) VOCATIONAL EDUCATION IN THE BOROUGH – (VERBAL UPDATE)

5. DEVELOPMENT OF A WORK PROGRAMME

A) REQUESTS FOR SCRUTINY

To consider any requests for scrutiny received by the Borough Solicitor. A copy of the Scrutiny Work Plan Prioritisation Aid is attached.

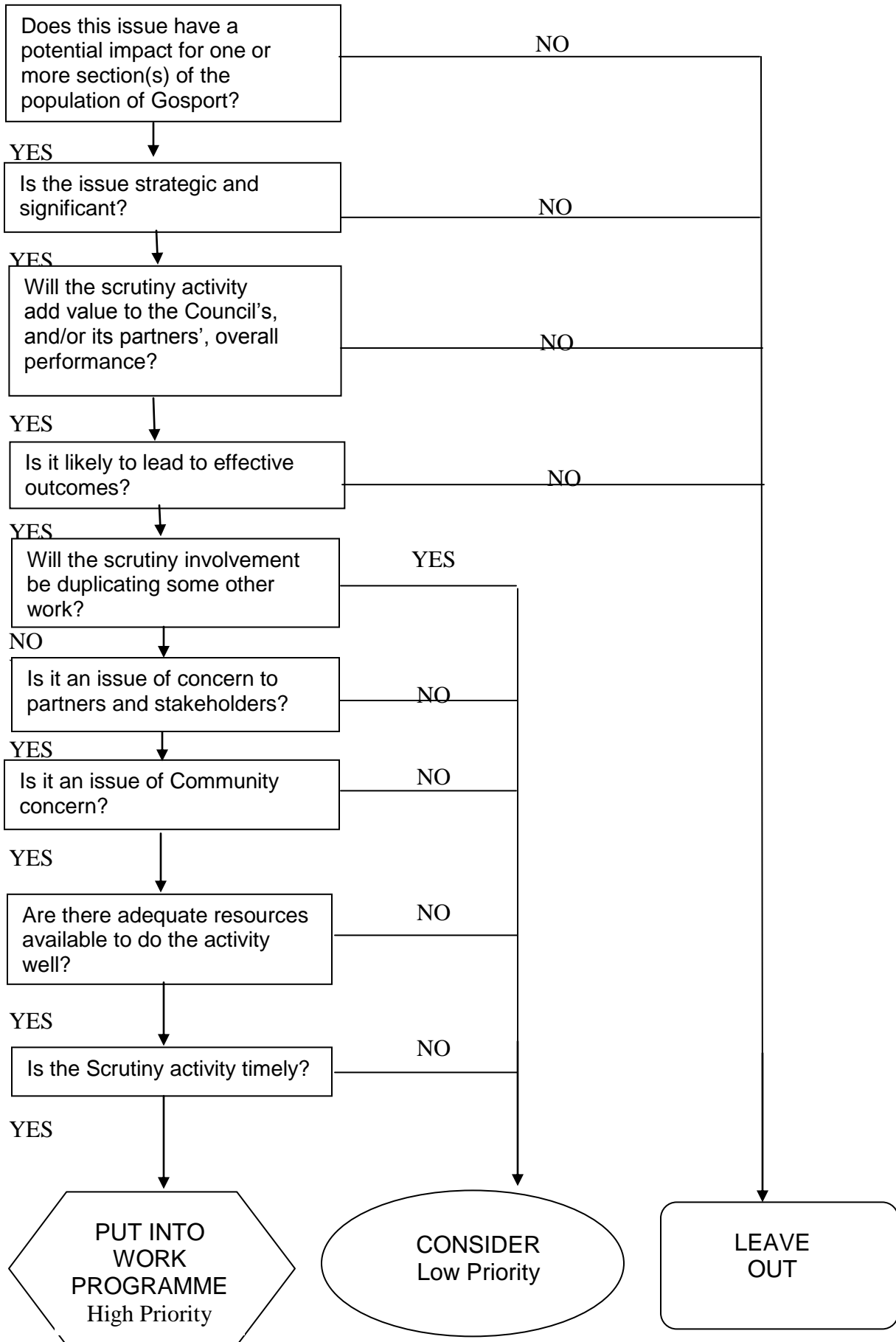
B) WORK PROGRAMME

To consider the work programme (attached) for the Committee and any suggestions from Members for issues to be scrutinised.

C) OTHER SUGGESTIONS FOR SCRUTINY

6. ANY OTHER BUSINESS

Scrutiny Work Plan Prioritisation Aid



OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY COMMITTEE: WORK PROGRAMME

Work Area	Lead Member/Officer	Date to be reported to Committee
Single Equality Bill	Julie Petty	Annually: June 2015
Promotion of the Borough (Social Media) to be included on the next agenda	David Eland	June 2015
Chairman's Annual Report 2014/15	Chairman	Annually: Mar 2015
Grounds Maintenance Contract	Ian Lycett	Sept 2015
Work areas: <i>Review at each meeting</i>		

OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY COMMITTEE

TITLE: CHAIRMAN'S DRAFT ANNUAL REPORT OF THE OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY COMMITTEE FOR THE MUNICIPAL YEAR 2014-2015

AUTHOR: COUNCILLOR BOB FORDER

Six meetings of the full committee were called during the course of the council year, and a further extraordinary meeting is planned.

The Committee published the following report

Bus Services with the Borough of Gosport

This report concluded a lengthy enquiry undertaken by a working group comprising Cllrs Farr, Scard, Beavis and Forder. The working group was serviced by Lisa Young (Democratic Services Officer) and David Duckett (Head of Transport and Traffic). The group met on five occasions as well as there being many informal and informal contacts by email, letter, telephone and face-to-face. During the meetings evidence was taken from a Hampshire County Council officer, a Fareham Borough councillor and the Managing Director of First Bus.

The Report made five main recommendations which were subsequently adopted by the Council.

Reports received

1. Single Equality Bill

The Head of Policy and Community Safety presented her annual report to the Committee and answered questions.

2. Housing Allocations Policy

Housing officers made a detailed, illustrated verbal report on this subject. This presentation provoked much discussion during which officers answered a number of points.

3. Polling Places Review

Consideration was given to this report authored by the Borough Solicitor and Deputy Chief Executive. Following discussion the Committee resolved to recommend the proposals for Polling Districts and Polling Places to Council which subsequently adopted them.

4. Waste Policies

The Chief Executive reported on the implementation of policies designed to meet legislative requirements.

5. Grounds Maintenance

The Head of Streetscene updated Members on progress made with the Grounds maintenance contract and the improvements officers are endeavouring to secure. It was agreed that in future the Head of Streetscene would report to the Committee each September.

Other work

Educational issues

Brian Pope, Area Director for the Hampshire County Council Inspection and Advisory Service, made a detailed presentation on the attainment of Gosport primary school children at an Extraordinary Meeting on 28 July. He was accompanied by a colleague and Councillor Edgar, Executive Member for Education, Hampshire County Council. The Committee was pleased to learn of the substantial improvements in measured attainment secured recently, and the closure of the gap between Gosport pupils' attainment and that of other pupils in Hampshire.

The meeting with Brian Pope was followed by visits to Gomer Infants School and the Haven Nursery School on 19 November organised under the auspices of the Committee but to which all Members were invited. The visits were considered "uplifting and encouraging".

On 10 November there was a visit to CEMAST College when the Principal, Nigel Duncan, explained the aims, plans for and development of the College. This visit was also open to all Members and was very well attended and received.

Porchester Crematorium

The Committee received some evidence on the impact on Porchester of the opening of the new crematorium at Havant. It was agreed that the Council's Porchester Crematorium representatives should be invited to report to the Committee if they considered this appropriate.

Future plans and on-going scrutinies

Vocational Education

Subsequent to the visit to CEMAST the Committee will receive a presentation from Philip Walker, Hampshire County Council Manager

(Post-14 Learning) on the sufficiency of vocational provision within the Borough on 17 March at an extraordinary meeting.

Fort Brockhurst and English Heritage

A working group has met to determine the scope of this enquiry and resolved to invite representatives of English Heritage to give evidence. The working group has been charged with investigating what measures could be taken to improve public access to the Fort Brockhurst site.

Interpretation Panels

A working group has been established to investigate the measures that might be taken to develop provision with the possible involvement of voluntary groups.

Allotments

The Chairman will attend a meeting of the Allotment Stakeholders Group on 16 March to investigate whether the Committee could play a useful role in making proposals about changes to the way in which allotments are managed.

Chairman's comments

The Chairman remains indebted to those members who have served on the Committee, particularly those who have given up substantial time to serve or lead working groups.

He is also grateful to those officers who have worked hard to ensure the success of the Committee.