

**A MEETING OF THE OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY COMMITTEE  
WAS HELD ON 14 MARCH 2013**

***Subject to approval.***

Councillors Farr (P), Forder (Chairman) (P), Foster-Reed (P), Geddes (P), Gill, Hazel (P), Hylands (P), Jacobs, Jessop (P), Kimber (P), Scard (P) and Mrs Searle (P).

**29. APOLOGIES**

Apologies for inability to attend the meeting were received from Councillors Gill and Jacobs.

**30. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

There were no declarations of interest.

**31. MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD ON 13 DECEMBER 2012.**

RESOLVED: That the minutes of the Overview and Scrutiny Committee meeting held on 13 December 2012 be approved and signed by the Chairman as a true and correct record.

**32. REPORTS RECEIVED**

**(i) THE PROMOTION OF THE BOROUGH**

Consideration was given to a verbal report by David Eland Head of IT Services on the use of social media websites to promote the Borough.

Members were advised that using social sites such as Twitter and Facebook allowed interaction between individuals to exchange key information.

It was advised that Economic Prosperity, Community Safety and Housing Services currently communicated via social media sites by publishing bulletins regarding what was happening in the Borough.

Members felt that if the use of social media sites were to progress further, responsibility and maintenance should be under the control of one officer at Gosport Borough Council to ensure consistency of message and avoidance of duplicating information.

Members were advised that, due to current staffing resources, there was no opportunity to provide a designated officer; however, David Eland would be the single point of contact and control to guide and oversee the messages that were being released. It was also suggested that the main source of information should be published on the Gosport Borough Council's webpage with links to Facebook and Twitter.

It was agreed that David Eland would progress and report back at a future meeting.

RESOLVED: That the Head of Information Technology Services progress the use of social media and bring a further report to Committee in due course.

(ii) EDUCATION WORKING GROUP

Consideration was given to a verbal update from Cllr Forder in the absence of Cllr Gill who had briefed him before the meeting. It was advised that three information gathering visits to post 11 institutions i.e. Bay House, Brune Park & St Vincent College, had taken place.

It was advised that a visit to Bridgemary School would be made on 14<sup>th</sup> May 2013.

(iii) THIRD SECTOR COMPACT

Consideration was given to a verbal update by Councillor Forder. It was advised that scrutiny of the Third Sector Compact had not happened, having been overtaken by a report commissioned by Gosport Voluntary Action.

It was noted that representatives from Gosport Voluntary Action and Citizens Advice Bureau would be making presentations to Policy & Organisation Board during the year.

(iv) CHAIRMAN'S ANNUAL REPORT

Consideration was given to a report by Councillor Forder which outlined the work and achievements of the Committee during the Municipal Year 2012/13.

The report received the approval of the Committee, subject to it being amended to reflect that the Head of IT Services would act as the single point of control and contact for media release and officers would also explore further ways of developing further social media to improve the dissemination of information and report to the Committee in due course.

Member's attention was drawn to page 4/3 of the report. It was felt that a copy of the report be sent to Dr Bob Pennells widow highlighting point 6.3 which acknowledged Dr Pennell's help and guidance and recorded the Committee's thanks.

A Member advised that progress had been made on the joint rostering of vascular surgery between QA and Southampton. Members felt that the scrutiny input provided by Gosport Borough Council had helped to achieve this.

RESOLVED: That the Chairman's report as amended be submitted to full Council for approval.

### **33. DEVELOPMENT OF A WORK PROGRAMME**

A) REQUESTS FOR SCRUTINY

No requests for scrutiny were received.

B) WORK PROGRAMME

C) OTHER SUGGESTIONS FOR SCRUTINY

**Education** – Members were advised that children within some of the Borough's educational institutions performed better than others. It was felt that all children, from whatever background, should have a chance to improve and achieve.

Concerns were raised about the diminution of Hampshire County Council's role and responsibility. It was suggested that the situation in Gosport could be opened for discussions to explore possible improvements and that contact with Hampshire County Council should be made to facilitate this.

**Housing Allocations Policy** – this was due to be implemented on April 1<sup>st</sup> 2013. Members agreed that, until the system was fully in place and bedded in, any scrutiny process could not start. A report would be brought to the board in twelve months time.

**Crematorium** – a presentation to be provided and a site visit to be arranged to explain the service. Members were asked to discuss with their groups any issues that they may have.

**34. ANY OTHER BUSINESS**

There was no other business.

The Meeting concluded at 7:15 pm

CHAIRMAN