

SCRUTINY BOARD (RESOURCES AND COUNCIL SERVICES)

MONDAY, 27TH OCTOBER, 2014

PRESENT: Councillor P Grahame in the Chair

Councillors B Anderson, S Bentley,
J Cummins, N Dawson, J Jarosz, A Khan,
A Lowe, C Macniven, T Wilford and
R Wood

34 Late Items

There were no late items.

35 Declaration of Disclosable Pecuniary Interests

There were no disclosable pecuniary interests declared to the meeting.

36 Apologies for Absence and Notification of Substitutes

An apology for absence was submitted by Councillor J L Carter.

Notification was received that Councillor B Anderson was substituting for Councillor J L Carter.

37 Minutes - 29 September 2014

RESOLVED – That the minutes of the meeting held on 29 September 2014 be approved as a correct record.

38 Discussion with Richard Corbett MEP

The Head of Scrutiny and Member Development submitted a report providing Members with an opportunity to ask Richard Corbett MEP a broad range of questions.

In summary the main areas of discussion were:

- The role of an MEP and the role of Parliament and Council of Ministers.
- The implementation of the European budget, particularly the European Structural and Investment Fund (ESIF) and the role of MEPs and Local Enterprise Partnerships (LEPS).
- The Leeds City Region ESIL strategy and the role of central government in its approval.
- The limited European funding directed at the health agenda.
- The opportunities provided by Horizon 2020, a EU Research and Innovation programme with nearly €80 billion of funding available over 7 years (2014 to 2020) with €1.7 billion available for health.

- The need to work with other partners to get match funding for the ESIF strategy and to pursue opportunities for other partners to deliver programmes.
- The priorities identified in the LEP ESIF strategy around ‘investing in Education, skills and lifelong learning’.
- The Democratic accountability of LEPs and the role of local councillors in relation to ESIF. It was noted that a LEP representative will be attending Scrutiny Board (Sustainable Economy and Culture) in the near future.
- The consequences of not having a regional voice at the Yorkshire and Humber level.
- The amount of trade undertaken from the Yorkshire and Humber with the EU.
- The auditing of the effectiveness of spend.
- The need to view Yorkshire as a diverse county with different areas having different needs.
- The role of City Regions in Europe.
- The recent publicity around the recent budget surcharge announcement.
- The positive effects of migration and the need to recognise consequences on front line services.

RESOLVED –

- (i) That Mr Corbett be thanked for his attendance at the meeting
- (ii) That those Elected Members who submitted a question and do not sit on the Scrutiny Board be given a written reply.
- (iii) That the Scrutiny Board (Sustainable Economy and Culture) raise with the LEP the issue of democratic accountability.

39 Work Schedule

The report of the Head of Scrutiny and Member Development presented the draft work schedule for the forthcoming municipal year.

RESOLVED – That the Board’s work schedule be updated to reflect the work areas identified during today’s meeting.

40 Date and Time of Next Meeting

Monday, 24 November 2014 at 10.00 am (Pre-meeting for all Board Members at 9.30 am)

(The meeting concluded at 11.30 am).