

SCRUTINY BOARD (CENTRAL AND CORPORATE)

MONDAY, 29TH MARCH, 2010

PRESENT: Councillor P Grahame in the Chair

Councillors S Bentley, B Chastney,
P Ewens, M Hamilton, A Hussain,
V Kendall, A Lowe, A McKenna,
A Parnham and D Schofield

Apologies Councillor J Bale

74 Declarations of Interest

There were no Member declarations of interest.

75 Apologies for Absence

An apology for absence from the meeting was submitted on behalf of Councillor J Bale.

76 Minutes - 1st March 2010

RESOLVED – That the minutes of the meeting held on 1st March 2010 be confirmed as a correct record.

77 Central Interpretation and Translation Services - Update Report

Further to Minute No. 33, 5th October 2009, the Chief Customer Services Officer submitted a report updating the Board regarding the operation of the Central Interpretation and Translation Unit (CITU).

Paul Broughton, Chief Customer Services Officer, Susan Murray, Head of Face to Face Contact, and Jayne Grant, CITU Co-ordinator, were in attendance at the meeting and responded to Members' queries and comments. In brief summary, the main points of discussion were:-

- Although the CITU charges had not yet been re-charged to Departments, there was no evidence to date that charging had led to a reduction in the demands for the service, or that Departments were making their own arrangements, independent of CITU.
- CITU had contracts with individuals who provided the service for the Council at a rate per job. The Department concerned or CITU dictated the need and level of use of the service.
- The developments regarding CITU assuming responsibility for British Sign Language services in the City was welcomed. It was also

reported that the Primary Care Trust had expressed an interest in contracting into the service in respect of NHS patients. The need to try to augment the numbers of BSL signers was acknowledged.

- The development of 'migrant hubs' at the Council's One Stop Centres, where people could learn English, was noted and welcomed.
- The Officers undertook to review again the current publicity levels and methods of CITU.
- The Officers also undertook to explore further with Children's Services and Adult Social Services:-
 - a) in the case of the former, the drop in the number of referrals; and
 - b) in the case of the latter, the relatively low number of referrals.

RESOLVED – That, subject to the above comments, the report be received and noted.

(NB: Councillor A Hussain joined the meeting at 10.02 am and Councillor M Hamilton joined the meeting at 10.08 am, during this item.)

78 Scrutiny Inquiry - Consultant Engagement - Draft Inquiry Report

Further to Minute No. 27, 7th September 2009, Minute No. 49, 7th December 2009 and Minute No. 57, 11th January 2010, the Board considered its proposed Final Inquiry Report submitted by the Head of Scrutiny and Member Development.

Subject to several typographical errors and the inclusion of Recommendation 5 in the Board's Annual Report 2009/10, the Board approved the draft Final Inquiry Report.

RESOLVED – That the draft Final Inquiry Report on Consultant Engagement be approved and forwarded to the Executive Board for consideration.

79 Annual Report 2009/10

The Head of Scrutiny and Member Development submitted the Board's proposed contribution to the composite Scrutiny Annual Report to Council.

RESOLVED – That the Board's contribution to the composite Scrutiny Boards' Annual Report to Council be approved.

80 Forward Plan of Key Decisions and Executive Board Minutes

The Head of Scrutiny and Member Development submitted a relevant extract from the Council's Forward Plan of Key Decisions for the period 1st April to

Draft minutes to be approved at the meeting to be held on 27th May 2010.

31st July 2010, together with the minutes of the meeting of the Executive board held on 10th March 2010.

RESOLVED – That the report be received and noted.

81 Councillor John Bale

RESOLVED – That, upon his retirement from the Council at the next election on 6th May 2010, the Board places on record its thanks and appreciation for all the hard work on scrutiny issues performed by Councillor John Bale.

82 Chair's Comments

This being the last meeting of the Board in the 2009/10 municipal year, the Chair thanked all the Members and Officers who had either served on, or assisted or supported the Board during a very productive year.