

## Conwy County Borough Council

### Full Council meeting – 18<sup>th</sup> October 2018: Approval of PSB joint scrutiny arrangements

#### 468. DEMOCRATIC SERVICES COMMITTEE

The minutes of the meeting of the Democratic Services Committee held on 17 September 2018 were presented.

**The Chair of the Democratic Services Committee drew Members' attention to [Minute 344 \(Future Overview and Scrutiny of the Joint Conwy and Denbighshire Public Services Board \(PSB\) - A Joint Scrutiny Committee for scrutinising the PSB\)](#) and Minute 346 (Excellence Fund Working Group), as the Council was requested to approve the recommendations of those minutes.**

In relation to recommendation (a) of Minute 346 (That the Excellence Fund be continued, with a budget of £29k and that officers look at whether alternative sources of funding could be used to fund the £29k), a Member (Councillor Brian Cossey) considered that by Council agreeing to the budget it was circumnavigating the budgetary process. It was therefore proposed that the budget of £29k for the continuation of the Excellence Fund be referred to the Finance and Resources Overview and Scrutiny Committee to be considered as part of the overall budgetary process.

In response to the above, another Member (Councillor Ronnie Hughes) considered that as the Excellence Fund had been formed for the benefit of those young people in the County Borough who excelled either in a sporting, culture or arts field, many of whom were either representing Wales or Great Britain, Council should agree to the recommendation in order to continue the Fund, which assisted families to be able to afford to support their children.

The Chief Executive advised that technically recommendation (a) should be a suggestion to the Finance and Resources Overview and Scrutiny Committee. It would then be a decision of Members whether the budget continued to be supported.

Discussion on the issue continued as follows:-

- It was noted that the Excellence Fund Working Group made recommendations on the level of funding for each application, the decision was then made by the Cabinet Member for Education, Skills and Employability.
- The Fund was not available in England and only in a few Councils within Wales.
- In relation to a query why the Democratic Services Committee had made the recommendation, the Democratic Services Manager advised that, whilst the Excellence Fund Working Group had been established for a number of years, the governance arrangements needed to be formalised and included within the Council's Constitution. The Democratic Services Committee had therefore been requested to review the terms of reference of the Working Group, including the resource implications. Upon reviewing the year on year spend of the Working Group it had been agreed to put forward the recommendation to continue with a £29k budget.
- With regard to the above, it was important to note that the Democratic Services Committee had made recommendations in the past that involved expenditure. The

Committee had a membership of 16, and the decision in relation to the Excellence Fund had been unanimous. The £30k Excellence Fund reserve should also be discussed in the event of it being referred to the Finance and Resources Overview and Scrutiny Committee.

- Community Development Services, which had the responsibility for the Excellence Fund, should explore marketing the Excellence Fund with a view to attracting sponsorship.

**RESOLVED –**

(a) That the budget of £29k, for the continuation of the Excellence Fund, be referred to the Finance and Resources Overview and Scrutiny Committee to be considered as part of the overall budgetary process.

**(b) That the recommendations contained within minutes 344 and 346 (b) to and (c) of the meeting of the Democratic Services Committee held on 17 September 2018 be approved.**

## **Denbighshire County Council**

### **Full Council Meeting – 23<sup>rd</sup> October 2018: Approval of Joint Scrutiny Arrangements**

#### **8. A JOINT SCRUTINY COMMITTEE FOR THE PUBLIC SERVICES BOARD**

The Democratic Services Manager introduced the Joint Scrutiny Committee for the Public Services Board (PSB) report (previously circulated) to inform Council of the proposed future arrangements to scrutinise the work of the Conwy and Denbighshire Public Services Board.

It had been the view of the PSB in September 2017 that a formal joint Scrutiny Committee would be the most appropriate vehicle to effectively scrutinise a strategic cross-county / county borough board like the PSB. The PSB confirmed its support for a joint Scrutiny Committee on 19 June 2018.

The Scrutiny Committees in both Conwy and Denbighshire councils have considered and agreed with the views put forward by the PSB to establish a joint committee and endorsed draft terms of reference for further consideration. Denbighshire's Democratic Services Committee had the opportunity for a final look at the proposals when it met on 19 October and confirmed it was supportive of the proposal.

Within the draft terms of reference it was proposed Joint Scrutiny Committee meet twice a year. The role of Chair should be allocated for a two year period and not be remunerated with a senior salary.

Councillor Alan James extended thanks to the Democratic Services Manager and the Scrutiny Co-ordinator for their hard work on this proposal.

#### **RESOLVED that:**

**(i) Council approves the establishing of a formal joint Scrutiny Committee with Conwy County Borough Council to scrutinise the Conwy and Denbighshire Public Services Board.**

**(ii) Council approves the attached draft terms of reference and rules of procedure for the joint Scrutiny Committee.**

**(iii) Council agreed the role of Chair of Joint Scrutiny Committee should not be eligible for remuneration through a senior salary.**