

**OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY COMMITTEE FOR RESOURCES  
17 SEPTEMBER 2009**

Present: Councillors Armstrong, Barlow, Cartwright, Sabetian,  
Waite and Wilson (in the Chair)

Lead Members in Attendance: Councillors Beaver and Pragnell

**8. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

The following councillor made a declaration as follows:

<u>Councillor</u>	<u>Minute</u>	<u>Interest</u>
Webb (in the public gallery)	10	Prejudicial – Trustee of Foreshore Trust

**9. MINUTES**

Councillor Cartwright indicated that there was an error in the minutes of 4 August 2009, in that it was he who declared a personal interest on minute 38, as a member of GMB Union and not Councillor Sabetian. Councillor Sabetian was not present at that meeting.

**RESOLVED that following the amendment as above, the minutes meeting held on 8 and 22 June and 4 August 2009 be approved as a true record.**

**10. QUARTER ONE PERFORMANCE AND FINANCIAL MONITORING REPORT**

Jane Hartnell, Head of Policy, Partnerships and Sustainability, presented the Quarter One Performance report.

The report advised members of the performance against the 2009/10 targets in Part II and Part III of the Corporate Plan, together with related budget issues within the Personnel & Organisational Development and Corporate Resources Directorate.

The format of the report had been slightly changed, in that each target had highlighted the risk level and risk action/description. Jane Hartnell explained that this was a new feature and all comments would be welcomed.

**OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY COMMITTEE FOR RESOURCES  
17 SEPTEMBER 2009**

Members discussed council tax collection, land disposals, shared fraud service and the office accommodation strategy.

Members also asked for further progress on recruiting a new Equalities Project Officer as the previous postholder had now secured employment elsewhere. Jane Hartnell explained that this was currently under review, but it was hoped that the post would be filled as soon as practicable.

Councillor Beaver asked that staff within the revenues and benefits department be especially thanked for their efforts during this time of financial recession, as council tax collection rates were still higher than the year previously.

Members did raise concerns about some of the information detailed within the report. They felt that certain areas of the report were out of date and therefore, did not present them with a current picture of the organisation's performance. Jane Hartnell explained that it was always difficult to present members with the most up to date information as the reports had to be collated in advance. She did, however, agree that this was frustrating for members and would look into how this could be addressed.

**RESOLVED that:**

- 1. staff in the Corporate Resources Directorate and Personnel and Organisational Development service be thanked for their hard work; and**
- 2. the committee noted that action is being taken to improve any shortfalls in performance and/or to address risks highlighted.**

**11. UPDATE ON SCRUTINY REVIEW OF PARTICIPATION AND ENGAGEMENT STRATEGY (CONSULTATION PROCESSES)**

Councillor Cartwright updated the committee on the progress of this scrutiny review. Members had now met twice; the first meeting they agreed the Project Initiation Document and timetable of the review. At the second meeting, members discussed what the Council currently does in terms of public consultation. The review will aim to ensure that the consultation process is more appealing to residents and to provide more accessible ways for residents to engage in local decision-making.

**RESOLVED that the report be noted.**

**OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY COMMITTEE FOR RESOURCES  
17 SEPTEMBER 2009**

**12. MONITORING OF THE IMPLEMENTATION OF CABINET  
DECISIONS**

Katrina Silverson, Scrutiny Officer, presented a report on the recent Cabinet Decisions made since the last formal meeting, highlighting areas that fell within the Committee's remit.

**RESOLVED that the report be noted.**

(The Chair declared the meeting closed at 7.17pm)