

**OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY COMMITTEE FOR RESOURCES
31 MAY 2012**

Prior to the start of the meeting, the Chair expressed the committee's condolences to Councillor Pragnell on the death of his father.

Present: Councillors Howard, Martin, Pragnell, Sinden, Turner (as the duly appointed substitute for Councillor Sabetian) and Webb (in the Chair)

Lead Members in attendance: Councillors Birch, Chowney, Kramer and Westley

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors Clark and Sabetian.

1. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

The following councillors declared an interest in the minutes as follows:

<u>Councillor</u>	<u>Minute</u>	<u>Interest</u>
Pragnell	4	Personal – Member of East Sussex County Council

2. MINUTES

RESOLVED that the minutes of the meetings held on 21 February be approved as a true record.

3. FINAL REPORT ON THE SCRUTINY REVIEW OF INFLUENCING AND APPRAISING THE DECISIONS OF THIRD PARTIES

Councillor Cartwright introduced the report to members of the committee, as Chair of the review. He explained that the review had focused on Highways issues around the Borough and the role of the Street Authority and utilities companies in co-ordinating these works. Councillor Cartwright continued that complaints had been received by ward Councillors from service users regarding the disruption caused by these works.

The purpose of the review had been to promote an inclusive approach to decision making and to effect greater communication between the Street Authority and the Council.

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Members discussed the third recommendation of the review, to write to the Secretary of State for Transport expressing concerns re proposed good practice document and suggesting additions. The committee noted that the suggested additions concerned highlighting members of the business community as key stakeholders. It was agreed that the Chair of the review would write to the Secretary of State for Transport to ensure the review's findings were communicated in a timely fashion.

The committee welcomed the report and thanked all those involved in the review.

RESOLVED that:

- 1. Cabinet be recommended to approve the report and recommendations; and**
- 2. The Chair of the review write to the Secretary of State to highlight the review's findings.**

4. CORPORATE PLAN PART III – YEAR END PERFORMANCE INFORMATION AND TARGET SETTING 2012/13

Mark Horan, Policy and Partnerships Officer, presented the Corporate Plan Part III.

The report detailed year-end actual performance by the staff in the Corporate Resources Directorate against the targets and milestones set out in Part II of the Corporate Plan for 2011/12. It noted the areas of shortfall and the actions that will be taken to improve performance during 2012/13. The views of the committee were also sought on the prospective 2012/13 Performance Indicators targets.

The committee noted that the report contained a number of very positive achievements. In particular, Members thanked Legal and Democratic Services, Policy and Partnerships and the People and Organisational Development teams for their contributions.

Members noted that the Financial Services team had achieved a record 'in year' collection rate for Council Tax of 96.8%, and thanked the team for their efforts.

Members of the committee were also pleased to note that the Council will continue to be recognised as an Investor in People (IiP) after successfully receiving re-accreditation in October 2011.

Kevin Boorman, Head of Marketing and Communications, gave the Committee an update on the Contact Centre Project. Since the last meeting of the Resources Committee, frontline Housing Services had been transferred

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to the Contact Centre and the refurbishment of the Hastings Information Centre had been completed. Work is now underway to transfer Revenues and Benefits to the Contact Centre and launch the new net-call system. The Contact Centre Board will continue to monitor these changes.

The committee welcomed this update and thanked those involved with the project for their work thus far.

RESOLVED that:

- 1 the information that will form Part III of the Corporate Plan be noted;**
- 2. the committee's comments on the proposed performance indicator targets for 2012/13 be referred to the Cabinet meeting on 11 June 2012; and**
- 3. staff be thanked for their hard work in achieving the targets set out in the Corporate Plan.**

5. PROGRESS UPDATE ON THE SCRUTINY REVIEW OF THE COUNCIL'S CONSULTATION PROCESS (MARCH 2010)

Councillor Howard took the Chair for this item.

Mark Horan, Policy and Partnerships Officer, presented a report to update Members on progress made in implementing the recommendations from the Scrutiny Review of the Council's Consultation process. He noted that many of these recommendations had informed a refresh of the Council's Participation and Communication Strategy and invited comments on the progress outlined in the report.

RESOLVED that the committee welcomed the progress update.

6. MONITORING THE IMPLEMENTATION OF CABINET DECISIONS

Mark Horan, Policy and Partnerships Officer, submitted 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.

7. INFORMATION ITEM: FORWARD PLAN

This information item was noted.

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8. INFORMATION ITEM: FUTURE WORK PROGRAMME

This information item was noted.

9. INFORMATION ITEM: SUGGESTIONS FOR FINANCIAL ECONOMIES AND NEW SOURCES OF INCOME

This information item was noted.

(The Chair declared the meeting closed at 6.55pm)