

**OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY COMMITTEE FOR RESOURCES
26 NOVEMBER 2012**

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

Lead Members in attendance: Councillors Birch and Kramer

Apologies for absence were received from Councillor Clark, Pragnell, Sabetian

8. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

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

<u>Councillor</u>	<u>Minute</u>	<u>Interest</u>
Webb	10	Personal – Member of East Sussex County Council

9. MINUTES

RESOLVED that the minutes of the meeting held on 6 September 2012 and the Joint Overview and Scrutiny Committee on 30 October 2012 be approved as a true record.

10. QUARTER TWO PERFORMANCE AND FINANCIAL MONITORING REPORT

The Head of Corporate Services, presented the Quarter Two Performance and Financial Monitoring Report. The report advised Members of the performance against the 2012/13 targets and performance indicators in Part 2 of the Corporate Plan and provided a summary of financial information.

The committee noted that the report contained a number of positive updates, including; the full occupancy of factory units, the extension of the Local Authority Mortgage Scheme and the ongoing Overview and Scrutiny work programme. Members thanked those involved for their efforts.

Discussion also took place regarding the 'Future Cities' project, the Local Strategic Partnership (LSP) and the Council's ongoing organisational changes. Brian Dinsdale, the Council's Critical Friend, had produced a report to review progress in embedding the Councils new senior management

OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY COMMITTEE FOR RESOURCES 26 NOVEMBER 2012

structure and the associated cultural changes. A copy of the report can be viewed on the Council's intranet site.

Members requested an update on efforts to find a new leaseholder for St Mary in the Castle. The Committee were advised that a report would be considered by Cabinet at its meeting on 3 December 2012. The report will outline a proposal that a new Charitable Trust, established with funding from Buckswood School will take over management of St Mary in the Castle as a multi use arts facility for the town, with the intention of becoming a cultural destination for the South East. The details are yet to be agreed regarding the length of the lease etc.

The Committee were also informed of progress towards the introduction of a new local Council Tax Benefit Scheme for 2013/14. The consultation on the draft Council Tax Reduction scheme had concluded on 29 October 2012. Whilst the consultation was ongoing, the Government announced additional funding available for 2013/14. If the funding is accepted, it is intended to progress the changes to discounts and exemptions which had already been consulted on. It is envisaged that the arrangements for Council Tax Benefit in 2013/14 will remain largely unchanged. The new scheme will then be considered by Cabinet and a special meeting of Full Council.

RESOLVED that:

- 1. the Committee's comments on Quarter 2 performance be addressed by the relevant Lead Member(s) with appropriate action and report back, and;**
- 2. staff in the Corporate Resources Directorate be thanked for their hard work and achievements in this quarter**

11. SUGGESTIONS FOR FINANCIAL ECONOMIES AND NEW SOURCES OF INCOME

The Policy and Partnerships Officer presented this item and requested Members continue to submit suggested efficiencies.

Discussion took place regarding the supply of additional copies of the Agenda for formal committee meetings. The Head of Corporate Services advised that this suggestion was already under consideration. The supply of Agenda's would continue to be reviewed, in consultation with Members.

12. FORWARD PLAN OCTOBER 2012 TO JANUARY 2013

OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY COMMITTEE FOR RESOURCES

26 NOVEMBER 2012

The Policy and Partnerships Officer delivered this report and asked Members to highlight any items for more detailed consideration at quarterly committee meetings.

13. WORK PROGRAMME 2012 – 13 QUARTER TWO UPDATE

The Policy and Partnerships Officer presented a report to update Members on the Overview and Scrutiny Work Programme 2012-13 which had been agreed at the Annual Meeting on 18 June.

14. UPDATE ON LOCAL HEALTH REFORMS

The Chief Operating Officer for Eastbourne, Hailsham, Seaford, Hastings and Rother Clinical Commissioning Groups delivered a comprehensive update on local health reforms and impact on resource decisions.

The presentation outlined that, with effect from 1 April 2013, Hastings and Rother Primary Care Trust (PCT) would be replaced by five successor bodies; Hastings and Rother Clinical Commissioning Group (CCG), East Sussex County Council, National Commissioning Board Local Area Team (Surrey and Sussex LAT), Public Health England and Surrey and Sussex Commissioning Support Unit (CSU). A detailed authorisation process with the National Commissioning Board was currently underway to ensure the new mechanism can meet the 119 lines of enquiry currently dealt with by Hastings and Rother PCT. The Chief Operating Officer highlighted the importance of minimising duplication across the successor bodies in order to optimise resources.

Members of the Overview and Scrutiny Committees asked questions which were answered by The Chief Operating Officer. Lead Members, Councillors Birch and Kramer, were invited to take part in the meeting. The Committee highlighted the diverse requirements for healthcare across the Borough, in particular the challenges associated with an aging population and above average levels of deprivation. Members expressed concerns that the Health and Well Being Board did not include a representative from each district and underscored that local representatives must be included in the decision making process.

Discussion took place regarding the financial regime. The Shadow CCG had been given a delegated Budget by the PCT Board from 1 April 2012, it is expected that the financial regime for CCG's will be similar to those for PCT's. Members noted that, under national guidelines, the work of the CSU is due to be outsourced by 2015. It is intended to reduce management costs to £25.00 per head and maximise the resources available for patient care. Members underscored that patient care must continue to inform decision making, particularly at a time of reduced resources. The Chief Operating Officer noted these comments and advised Members of continued investment in preventative health measures.

**OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY COMMITTEE FOR RESOURCES
26 NOVEMBER 2012**

The Committee thanked The Chief Operating Officer for attending.

(The Chair declared the meeting closed at 7.45pm)