

**OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY COMMITTEE FOR RESOURCES  
20 SEPTEMBER 2006**

Present: Councillors Bing (in the Chair), Silverson, Springthorpe (from 6.10pm onwards) and Vallery (as the duly appointed substitute for Councillor Cooke)

Apologies for absence were received from Councillor Cooke, Sabetian and Tucker. Councillor Stevens gave apologies for lateness, although was unable to attend the meeting at all.

**4. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

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

<u>Councillor</u>	<u>Minute</u>	<u>Interest</u>
Silverson	7	Personal - Employee of DWP

**5. MINUTES**

**RESOLVED** - that the minutes of the meetings held on 25 May and 13 June 2006 be approved as a true record.

**6. TWINNING WITH HASTINGS SIERRA LEONE**

Kevin Boorman, Marketing and Communications Manager, presented a report to members on plans for twinning with Hastings Sierra Leone.

On 27 March 2006, the Cabinet had agreed to a supplementary estimate of £5000 to twin Hastings with Hastings Sierra Leone. The requirement is for a cash grant of £1500 and in kind support to the value of £3500.

**RESOLVED** - that the report be noted.

**7. QUARTER ONE PERFORMANCE**

Chantal Lass, Policy and Performance Officer presented a report on performance up to the end of Quarter One.

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It was suggested that, in future, quarterly reports to the Overview and Scrutiny Committees be presented in such a way that all previous quarters for the year are shown alongside the quarter being reported on in order to track progress. Alongside this, it was suggested that a more focussed presentational style be adopted. Neil Dart, Deputy Chief Executive agreed to take this away to review.

It was asked that the staff in the Information Centre be formally thanked as it was felt they had performed exceptionally well under recent pressures.

It was also asked if a new Communications strategy had been adopted as it appeared press releases were being given from officers rather than lead members. Councillor Beaver explained that he was not aware of such a change, but would take away these comments and endeavour to bring back an answer to members.

Councillor Silverson proposed an amendment to the report's recommendation, which was agreed by members of the committee.

### **RESOLVED that:**

- 1. staff in the Communications and Organisational Development and Deputy Chief Executive's Directorates be thanked for their hard work; and**
- 2. future performance information incorporates risk management with relevant target completion dates, thus enabling more focused management and delivery of the LPP and related targets**

### **8. UPDATE ON SCRUTINY REVIEW OF COUNCIL TAX COLLECTION**

Graham Belchamber, Scrutiny and Democratic Services Manager, gave a verbal update on the scrutiny review of Council Tax Collection. Members had met three times so far. The panel at their second meeting had agreed the Project Initiation and Terms of Reference. The Executive Manager of Financial Services had also been interviewed as part of the review process. The panel were now at a point where they would consider drafting their final report for the committee.

**RESOLVED - that the report be noted.**

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**9. UPDATE ON SCRUTINY REVIEW OF THE USE OF CONSULTANTS  
AND EXTERNAL ADVISORS**

Graham Belchamber, Scrutiny and Democratic Services Manager, gave a verbal update on the scrutiny review of the Use of Consultants and External Advisors. Members had met twice so far. At their second meeting, the panel agreed the Project Initiation Document and Terms of Reference. At the initial meeting, members had asked for data to be brought to them along with a comparison with our local authority audit family, this was provided at the second meeting. At the second meeting, the panel looked at the data and narrowed down exactly the information that needed extracting.

The panel have invited the Deputy Chief Executive and Director of Finance and Lead Member for Deputy Chief Executive's Directorate to the next meeting.

**RESOLVED - that the report be noted.**

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

Katrina Strong, 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 noted.**

(The Chair declared the meeting closed at 7.30pm)