

**OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY COMMITTEE FOR RESOURCES
24 MAY 2007**

Present: Councillors Armstrong (in the Chair), Bing (until 8.00pm), Bird, Cartwright, Cooke, Sabetian and Webb (as the duly appointed substitute for Councillor Soan)

Apologies were received from Councillor Soan.

1. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

Councillors made no declarations of interest at this meeting.

2. MINUTES

RESOLVED that the minutes from the meetings held on 15 March and 3 April 2007 be approved as a true record.

3. CORPORATE PLAN PART III - YEAR END PERFORMANCE DATA AND TARGET SETTING TO 2009/10

Jane Hartnell, Policy and Performance Manager presented a report on the 2006-07 end of year performance and target setting to 2009/10.

Prior to the debate, Councillor Bing asked that abbreviations in reports be documented in full initially as some members may be unaware of the terminology.

Members raised questions on equal pay, council tax collection rates and the improved performance of the Benefits Section. Councillor Beaver asked that members formally thank the staff involved for their hard work. Members also asked that the Marketing staff be thanked for their excellent work throughout the year.

Members also asked for general information concerning the new kiosks outside the Town Hall and at Aquila House, the performance of the Council's internal financial system and the length of time customers were kept holding on the telephone when enquiring about benefit issues.

In particular, members asked questions on the number of disabled staff within Hastings Borough Council and asked that the figures be circulated to them.

Members discussed the targets set out until 2009/10 and paid particular regard to targets BV016a and BV017a, raising a concern that the targets were set too low. These related to the number of authority employees declaring

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they meet the Disability Discrimination Act 1995 definition and the percentage of employees from minority ethnic communities. The Deputy Chief Executive replied that the Council could only gain this information if employees were prepared to answer surveys and complete forms. Councillor Cartwright expressed his dissatisfaction with the targets.

Councillor Bird commented that it would be helpful, in future performance reports, if numeric values were attached to targets as well as percentages. The Deputy Chief Executive accepted this as a fair comment and said that the figures would be monitored throughout the year and reported back in real terms.

RESOLVED that:

- 1. Members note the information that will form Part III of the Corporate Plan;**
- 2. the comments of the Overview and Scrutiny Committee on the proposed performance indicator targets for 2007/08 to 2009/10 be referred to the Cabinet meeting on 11th June 2007; and**
- 3. the Overview and Scrutiny Committee thank staff for achieving the targets in the Local Performance Plan.**

4. MONITORING 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 be noted.

(The Chair declared the meeting closed at 8.26pm)