

**OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY COMMITTEE FOR RESOURCES
12 DECEMBER 2007**

Present: Councillors Armstrong (in the Chair), Bing (until 6.20pm), Bird, Sabetian, Silverson (as the duly appointed substitute for Councillor Cartwright) and Soan

Apologies were received from Councillor Cooke

14. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

Councillors declared no interests at this meeting.

15. MINUTES

RESOLVED - that the minutes of the meetings held on 19 September 2007 be approved as a true record.

16. FINAL REPORT ON BEST VALUE REVIEW OF COUNCIL ASSET AND PUBLIC REALM MAINTENANCE

This item was moved up the agenda with the approval of the Chair as Councillor Bing wished to leave the meeting early due to illness.

Councillor Bing, as Chair of the review team, presented the final report on the Best Value Review of Council Asset and Public Realm Maintenance. He also thanked the officers and members involved in the review.

Within the figures quoted in the report on the Borough's amount of open space, it was asked that a split between foreshore and other open space be incorporated. This was mainly to highlight that Hastings has a high percentage of foreshore as part of its open spaces, compared to the other authorities within our Audit family.

RESOLVED that:

- 1. the report be recommended to Cabinet and Full Council;
and**
- 2. the attached action plan be adopted and implemented.**

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17. QUARTER TWO PERFORMANCE

Shabana Bayjou, Policy and Performance Officer, presented the Quarter Two Performance report.

The report detailed performance by exception of Corporate Plan actions, financial performance, Best Value and Local performance Indicators within the Personnel & Organisational Development and Corporate Resources Directorate, including Performance Indicators that had exceeded targets, were below target and 'Hothouse' Performance Indicators (including those that were considered to be at risk of poor performance).

Members discussed the improved targets regarding sickness absence, council tax collection rates and housing benefit security.

Councillor Silverson asked that the committee's disappointment regarding non-involvement in the current restructure of Community Services and Economic Development be formally noted.

Councillor Bird extended thanks to officers for detailing monetary values as well as percentage values within the report.

RESOLVED that:

- 1. staff in Personnel & Organisational Development and the Corporate Services Directorate be thanked for their hard work; and**
- 2. the report be noted.**

18. UPDATE ON AREA CO-ORDINATION POLICY DEVELOPMENT

Councillor Silverson gave a verbal update on the progression of the Area Co-ordination policy development project.

The timetable had slipped slightly due to uncertainty over funding streams. This was now known and the draft report was nearing conclusion. It was hoped that a final report would be presented to the committee in February or March 2008.

RESOLVED that the report be noted.

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19. UPDATE ON SCRUTINY REVIEW OF PUBLIC CONTACT ARRANGEMENTS

Councillor Silverson gave a verbal update on the progression of the scrutiny review of Public Contact Arrangements.

Extensive research had been undertaken by the review team, which included a visit to Ashford Borough Council's civic centre and Rother District Council's Community Help Point. The team were also looking at all forms of public contact that Hastings Borough Council has with members of the public.

Currently, a first draft report and action plan was being worked on and it was hoped that the review would be concluded in March 2008.

RESOLVED that the report be noted.

20. UPDATE ON CLIMATE CHANGE POLICY DEVELOPMENT

In Councillor Cooke's absence, Graham Belchamber, Scrutiny and Democratic Services Manager gave an update on progression of the Climate Change policy development project.

Members had agreed the scope of the project and had invited members and staff to attend a showing of the Al Gore film, 'An Inconvenient Truth'. This had generated much debate and had been proved to be a good basis for the project.

It was also noted that the project team were keen to involve the Hastings Young Persons Council in the refresh of the Council's existing Climate Change Policy.

RESOLVED that the report be noted.

21. 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 7.10pm)