

**OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY COMMITTEE FOR RESOURCES
13 MARCH 2008**

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

Apologies were received from Councillors Soan and Pragnell (as lead member for Personnel and Organisational Development)

22. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

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

<u>Councillor</u>	<u>Minute</u>	<u>Interest</u>
Webb	24 (Any relating to East Sussex County Council)	Personal - ESCC Councillor

23. MINUTES

RESOLVED - that the minutes of the meeting held on 12 December 2007 be approved as a true record.

24. QUARTER THREE PERFORMANCE

Chantal Lass, Sustainability Policy Officer, presented the Quarter Three 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 merit of future reporting by exception only, to try and simplify the reporting process. Neil Dart, Deputy Chief Executive and Director of Corporate Resources, suggested that a meeting take place after the Borough Elections in May with the Chairs of the two O&S committees to discuss further.

Questions were raised regarding sickness absence, equalities and the shared benefit and revenues proposals.

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Chantal gave the committee an overview of the new National Indicators coming forward from Central Government from next year onwards.

RESOLVED that:

- 1. staff in Personnel & Organisational Development and the Corporate Services Directorate be thanked for their hard work;**
- 2. the committee is assured that action is being taken to improve any poor performance identified; and**
- 3. the report be noted.**

25. FINAL REPORT ON AREA CO-ORDINATION POLICY DEVELOPMENT

Councillor Silverson presented the final report on the Area Co-ordination policy development project.

Members asked that those involved in the project be thanked for the work undertaken.

The committee felt the report was comprehensive and began to address issues regarding communication between Area Management Boards and the Local Strategic Partnership, together with highlighting area co-ordination as an important part of the Council structure.

RESOLVED that:

- 1. the report and action plan be agreed and forwarded on to Cabinet for discussion; and**
- 2. those involved in the project be thanked for the work undertaken.**

26. UPDATE ON CLIMATE CHANGE POLICY DEVELOPMENT

This item was moved up the agenda at the request of the Chair.

Councillor Cooke gave a verbal update on this project, stating that due to the sheer volume of information currently being sent from Central Government, together with the introduction of new national PIs, the panel have decided to revisit the project after the May elections when more information will be available.

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RESOLVED that the report be noted.

27. FINAL REPORT ON SCRUTINY REVIEW OF PUBLIC CONTACT ARRANGEMENTS

Councillor Silverson presented the final report on the Scrutiny Review of Public Contact Arrangements.

Members raised concerns over the low number of formal complaints regarding staff attitude, saying that the figure should be higher, according to evidence within their ward work. Councillor Silverson replied that the action plan had highlighted the need for frontline staff training, especially with regard to Conflict Management and this would be addressed.

Members noted that the report was comprehensive and highlighted a need to change certain aspects of the Council's public contact arrangements.

RESOLVED that:

1. **the committee agree the report and action plan and forward to Cabinet for discussion; and**
2. **those involved in the review be thanked for the work undertaken.**

28. UPDATE ON SHARING SKILLS AND TRADING SERVICES SCRUTINY REVIEW

Councillor Bing gave a verbal update on the scrutiny review. The review team had agreed the terms of reference and Project Initiation Document at their first meeting on 25 February. It was anticipated that a further meeting would be held before the election period to look at current joint working arrangements, alongside services currently out-sourced.

RESOLVED that the report be noted.

29. SCRUTINY REVIEW OF THE USE OF CONSULTANTS AND ADVISORS - ACTION PLAN MONITORING

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Neil Dart, Deputy Chief Executive and Director of Corporate Resources gave a verbal update on the progress of the action plan for the scrutiny review of Consultants and Advisors completed last year.

The action points in the plan were now complete and members were asked to 'sign off' the action plan as such.

RESOLVED that:

1. the action plan be 'signed off' as completed.

30. WEBCASTING OF PUBLIC MEETINGS: REFERRAL BY FULL COUNCIL TO OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY

Graham Belchamber, Scrutiny and Democratic Services Manager presented a report on the motion from Full Council to refer the issue of web-casting public meetings to Overview and Scrutiny. It was recommended that members agree to refer the issue for inclusion in their work programme for 2008-09.

RESOLVED that the committee agree to refer the issue of web-casting public meetings to the 2008 Annual Meeting of Overview and Scrutiny for inclusion in the 2008-09 Overview and Scrutiny Work Programme.

31. 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 7.20pm)