

**OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY COMMITTEE FOR RESOURCES  
22 MAY 2008**

Present: Councillors Stevens (in the Chair), Barlow, Beaver, Bing, Cartwright, M J Lock, Martin, Pragnell and Sabetian

**1. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

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

<u>Councillor</u>	<u>Minute</u>	<u>Interest</u>
Webb	4 (Any relating to East Sussex County Council)	Personal – Member of Foreshore Trust

**2. MINUTES**

**RESOLVED - that the minutes of the meeting held on 13 March 2008 be approved as a true record.**

**3. CORPORATE PLAN PART III**

Jane Hartnell, Head of Policy, Partnerships & Sustainability, presented the Corporate Plan Part III.

The report advised members of the year-end actual performance by staff in the Corporate Resources Directorate and the Personnel and Organisational Development Service against the targets and milestones set out in Part II of the Corporate Plan for 2007/08. It noted the areas of shortfall and the actions that will be taken to improve performance during 2008/09.

Neil Dart, Deputy Chief Executive and Director of Corporate Resources, gave an overview of the Council's performance.

Members discussed the targets for Financial Services, Internal Audit and Investigations, Legal and Democratic Services, Information Technology, Policy and Performance and Personnel and Organisational Development (POD).

Questions were raised regarding council tax collection, Agresso and polling stations (Neil Dart agreed to arrange for all Members and their agents to be asked about any improvements they can suggest for Polling Stations or any other election issues). Members also discussed the target set for council tax collection (Target 14.8) and asked if this could not be made higher. Councillor Cartwright asked that further information on the Member Development training model be given, for clarification.

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Members discussed Performance Indicators and questions were raised on wheelchair access to Council offices. Councillor Cartwright commented that he had not realised that Falaise and Summerfield, although owned by but not managed by the Council, were included.

With regard to IT Performance Indicators, Councillor Cartwright congratulated those involved with the Borough's website but thought next year's target was too low. Mark Bourne said he was happy to bring targets for 2009/10 forward to 2008/09.

Questions were raised on Performance Indicators within POD, paying particular regard to early retirement targets, number of employees fulfilling criteria under the Disability Discrimination Act (DDA) and the number of staff Hastings Borough Council employs from minority ethnic communities. Verna Connolly, Head of POD explained that, although the authority was not planning to retire staff early, she would not like to see the target reduced as this had implications for the local government pension arrangements. With regard to DDA, the target was set against the number of staff who actually declares themselves as having a disability. Indicators regarding the number of employees from minority ethnic communities were not always within the authority's control (as influenced by an individual's personal situations), but the target would be increased to enable progression forward.

**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 2008/09 to 2010/11 be referred to the Cabinet meeting on 9 June 2008; and**
- 3. the Overview and Scrutiny Committee thank staff for their hard work in achieving the targets in the Corporate Plan.**

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

Katrina Strong, Scrutiny Officer, presented the report. Neil Dart told the Committee that the Council should hopefully, soon be the sole trustee of the Foreshore Trust

**RESOLVED that the report be noted.**

(The Chair declared the meeting closed at 7.16pm)