

**OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY COMMITTEE FOR RESOURCES
5 FEBRUARY 2009**

Present: Councillors Cartwright, Martin, MJ Lock, Sabetian and Stevens (in the Chair)

Apologies were received from Councillors Barlow, Bing and Pragnell.

22. DECLARATIONS OF INTERESTS

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

<u>Councillor</u>	<u>Minute</u>	<u>Interest</u>
Beaver	24	Personal – Governor of Filsham Valley School
Cartwright	24 & 25	Prejudicial – Regarding Area Based Grants, partner Vice-President of Hastings Credit Union (if discussed)
Martin	24 & 25	Personal – Member of HOSC (if discussed)

23. MINUTES

RESOLVED that the minutes of the meeting held on 10 December 2008 be approved as a true record.

24. DRAFT CORPORATE PLAN 2009/10 – 2011/12

Jane Hartnell, Head of Policy, Partnerships and Sustainability gave a brief introduction of the draft Corporate Plan which set out the proposed priority areas of activity and investment for 2009/10 to 2011/12. Members were invited to comment on the draft Plan and related budget proposals.

Members made particular comment to the economic downturn currently being experienced locally and nationally. They suggested that positive aspects be highlighted, for example physical regeneration and the desire to increase the local skills base.

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Members discussed the draft Corporate Priorities in some detail, making particular reference to safeguarding employment during the economic downturn, also the Council's commitment to climate change. Members asked that both priorities be expanded upon in order to strengthen further.

Also discussed was the Use of Resources Assessment, where the Council had achieved a favourable marking. Councillor Beaver asked that all staff involved in this process be thanked for their efforts.

RESOLVED that the comments from the Overview and Scrutiny Committee on the Council's draft Corporate Plan for 2009/10 - 2011/12 be referred to Cabinet.

25. CONSULTATION ON REVENUE BUDGET 2008-09 REVISED AND 2009-10, CAPITAL PROGRAMME 2008-09 TO 2011-2012

Neil Dart, Deputy Chief Executive and Director of Corporate Resources, gave a brief introduction on the Revenue Budget and Capital Programme as part of the public consultation process. Members were invited to submit their comments on the budget proposals.

Members were given an overview of the shortfall in concessionary travel, which had seen a gap of approximately £800,000 over the next two years. This meant there would remain a strong focus on achieving efficiencies around the Council.

Members discussed the use of capital reserves and a knock-on effect on the capital programme. Neil Dart explained that, rather than use any further capital reserves, especially as these were now at the recommended minimum level, the capital programme would be financed through borrowing. Members agreed that the reserves should remain at the recommended minimum level and not be allowed to fall below this level.

RESOLVED that the comments from the Overview and Scrutiny Committee on the Revenue Budget and Capital Programme be referred to Cabinet.

(The Chair declared the meeting closed at 7.36pm)