

**OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY COMMITTEE FOR RESOURCES
22 NOVEMBER 2010**

Present: Councillors Clark (from 6.25pm), Hodges, Lock (in the Chair), MJ Lock, Sabetian and Westley

Lead Members in attendance: Councillors Birch and Kramer

Apologies for lateness were received from Councillor Clark.

11. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

There were no declarations of interest made at this meeting.

12. MINUTES

RESOLVED that the minutes meeting held on 16 September be approved as a true record.

13. PROPOSALS FOR NEW PERFORMANCE MANAGEMENT ARRANGEMENTS

Mark Horan, Policy and Partnerships Officer, presented the report. This updated members on proposals for improving performance reporting in light of the review of Corporate Planning functions, together with discussions with Overview and Scrutiny members.

Mark Horan explained that from Quarter Three, the reports submitted would be authored by Corporate Directors and would be similar to the current format, but would not contain detailed Performance Indicator (PIs) information. This meant that the quarterly PIs would only be published electronically.

Members confirmed that they would still expect to see any targets raised by them at the quarterly meetings, especially if they felt that a higher level of detail and explanation were required.

Concerns were raised regarding the number of PIs and target setting arrangements. Councillor Birch replied that the Overview and Scrutiny Committees would be consulted during the drafting of the Corporate Plan and this would be their opportunity to influence. It was also acknowledged that having fewer, more meaningful targets would create a better focused Corporate Plan.

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Councillor Lock also suggested that targets within the Community Strategy should be monitored in some way, especially in these difficult economic times.

RESOLVED that:

- 1. comments from the committee in relation to the new Performance Management Arrangements be acknowledged; and**
- 2. the report be noted.**

14. QUARTER TWO PERFORMANCE AND FINANCIAL MONITORING REPORT

Mark Horan, Policy and Partnerships Officer, presented the Corporate Plan Part III.

The report advised Members of the Quarter Two performance by the staff in the Corporate Resources Directorate against the 2010/11 targets in Part II and Part III of the Corporate Plan, with related budget and risk issues.

Members discussed training and development for councillors, the Place Survey and ethnicity, disability and gender targets within People and Organisation Development.

The committee made particular reference to the proposed Contact Centre. Councillor Kramer replied that this would be trialled shortly and confirmed that the front of house service would remain at the Hastings Information Centre.

Councillor Sabetian raised a procedural point on the Performance Indicator Tables, saying that the 'Direction of Travel' column could be confusing in terms of current performance. Councillor Westley suggested that a separate column be inserted within the PI summary for simplicity and ease of understanding. Mark Horan replied that he would take this back to colleagues.

RESOLVED that:

- 1. staff in the Corporate Resources Directorate be thanked for their hard work and achievements in this quarter; and**
- 2. the Committee be assured that action is being taken to improve any shortfalls in performance and/or to address risks highlighted.**

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15. UPDATE ON SCRUTINY REVIEW OF PAYMENT OF HOUSING BENEFITS

Councillor Hodges gave a verbal update on the scrutiny review of Payment of Housing Benefits, currently being undertaken.

The review team had met twice and had also undertaken a visit to the Revenues and Benefits department. Members had also requested that they visit Ashford Borough Council in order to view a new software system currently being implemented.

At their next meeting, members would be interviewing both Private and Social Landlords in order to gain a better understanding of the rental markets.

The review team were considering various recommendations for their final report, both short and long term.

RESOLVED that the report be noted.

16. MONITORING THE IMPLEMENTATION OF CABINET DECISIONS

Katrina Silverson, Scrutiny and Electoral Services 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 7.55pm)

O&S R.9