

**OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY COMMITTEE FOR SERVICES  
24 SEPTEMBER 2007**

Present: Councillors Bird (as the duly appointed substitute for Councillor Wilson), Chowney, Fawthrop, Martin (as the duly appointed substitute for Councillor Waite), Smith, Webb (in the Chair).

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors Waite and Wilson and from Lead Member, Councillor Finch.

**6. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

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

<u>Councillor</u>	<u>Minute</u>	<u>Interest</u>
Bird	8	Prejudicial - Foreshore Trust (if discussed) - member of the Foreshore Trust
Lock	8	Personal - any reference to East Sussex County Council As County Councillor
Tucker	8	Prejudicial - Foreshore Trust (if discussed) - former member of the Foreshore Trust
Webb	8	Personal - any reference to East Sussex County Council As County Councillor
Webb	8	Prejudicial - Foreshore Trust (if discussed) - member of the Foreshore Trust
Fawthrop	10	Personal - Board Member of Citizens Advice Bureau
Smith	10	Prejudicial - Trustee of Hastings Trust and linked with HVA
Tucker	10	Prejudicial - Trustee of Hastings Trust

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**7. MINUTES**

**RESOLVED** - that the minutes of the meetings held on 30 May and 19 June 2007 be approved as a true record.

**8. QUARTER ONE PERFORMANCE**

Chantal Lass, Policy and Performance Officer, presented the Quarter One Performance report. A substitute paragraph 2 was tabled (i.e. the entire original section of the report, namely paragraphs 2.0 to 2.10, be disregarded and was replaced by a new page listing paragraphs 2.0 to 2.5).

The report detailed performance by exception of Corporate Plan actions, financial performance, Best Value and Local Performance Indicators within the Community Well Being, Environmental Services and Regeneration & Planning Directorates, 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). The report also contained a broad overview of the first quarter position with regard to the revenue and capital expenditure.

Members were advised that the possible slippage relating to the establishment of a private sector improvement target (Target 7.9 refers) was due to the late receipt of results of the stock condition survey.

A shortfall was reported in relation to the licensing of buildings converted into flats (page 19, item 1). Although the new Government Regulations had now been received they were more complicated than first envisaged and required further study.

Members were informed that the re-opening of St. Leonards Gardens was planned for Spring 2008 (Target 10.1 refers).

In relation to Target 10.6 Members were advised that the Council (and others) were currently providing advice to SEERA (South East England Regional Authority) relating to accommodation for gypsies and travellers. A series of recommendations would be reported to a future Cabinet meeting regarding the level of pitches required for more permanent accommodation.

Thanks and congratulations were extended to all staff involved in the second annual Seafood and Wine Festival held on 22nd/23rd September (Target 1.12 refers).

All staff concerned were thanked for their work relating to Information Centre high number of visitors (Target 12.1 refers).

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The Museum Curator and all staff involved were thanked for the successful re-opening of the Museum and Art Gallery, 28th July (Target 9.7 refers).

Thanks were extended to the Corporate Director, Community Well Being and staff involved in achieving the low figures relating to Performance Indicator L(BV)183a and that the Corporate Director provide the Chair with a briefing on the reasons for the increase in time spent in B&B in April and May (L016) and the latest trend.

It was agreed that the Corporate Director, Community Well Being would liaise with 1066 Housing Association (and other agencies as appropriate) relating to the prompt removal of graffiti (Performance Indicator BV199b refers)

Members were informed that in relation to Performance Indicator BV174 arrangements for reporting this were currently being reviewed.

Members requested further information regarding issues relating to Target 10.4 (Hastings Castle project including West Hill & East Hill Lifts); delay in grant offer from the Heritage Lottery fund (Item 1, page 49); highway safety inspections (Performance Indicator L127 refers); figures relating to the length of stay for families in B&B accommodation (Performance Indicator I(BV)183a refers).

**RESOLVED that:**

- 1. staff in the Community Well Being, Environmental Services and Regeneration & Planning Directorates be thanked for their hard work;**
- 2. the report be noted.**

**9. UPDATE ON DEVELOPMENT OF EMPTY HOMES STRATEGY  
2007-2013**

Councillor Bird gave a verbal update on the policy development of the new Empty Homes Strategy. The Project Panel had met and agreed the Terms of Reference. Comparisons have been made with other local authorities and the information gained would assist in the development of the new strategy. A final report would be presented to this Committee at its meeting in December.

**RESOLVED that the report be noted.**

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**10. UPDATE ON SCRUTINY REVIEW OF VOLUNTARY SECTOR  
ACCOMMODATION - UPDATE**

The Corporate Director, Community Well Being, gave a verbal update on the Scrutiny Review of Voluntary Sector Accommodation. The Action Plan was slightly delayed. In view of the development of the Priory Quarter discussions had commenced between the Council/SeaSpace/Hastings Voluntary Action about developing a community anchor (a scaled down version of the Community Base concept). The concept would involve the re-siting of Hastings Voluntary Action (and possibly sharing the accommodation and/or facilities with another medium sized voluntary organisation, and other smaller community groups/projects). The lack of suitable town centre accommodation was proving a challenging issue. Voluntary sector accommodation was one of the projects to be examined as part of the Community Asset transfer consultancy being co-ordinated by the Regeneration & Planning Directorate.

A discussion ensued regarding the involvement of Lead Members in the development of the community anchor and the intention to involve Hastings Trust in future discussions relating to identifying suitable premises and resources.

**RESOLVED that:**

- 1. the Corporate Director, Community Well Being to provide a progress report within six months; and**
- 2. the report be noted.**

(Councillors Smith and Tucker having declared a prejudicial interest in this item left the Council Chamber for the remainder of the discussions).

**11. 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 7.35pm)