

**OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY COMMITTEE FOR SERVICES
13 DECEMBER 2007**

Present: Councillors Chowney, Dowling, Fawthrop, Smith, Waite and Webb (in the Chair)

12. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

Councillors declared the following interests as indicated below:

<u>Councillor</u>	<u>Minute</u>	<u>Interest</u>
Bird & Webb	15 (in relation to Foreshore Trust)	Prejudicial - Member of the Foreshore Trust (if discussed)
Lock, Waite & Webb	15	Personal - Any item relating to East Sussex County Council as CC Councillors
Lock	15 (in relation to Pebsham Countryside Park and Traveller & Gypsy Site)	Prejudicial - ESCC Lead Member
Pragnell	15 (in relation to Castle approach)	Personal - Lives in the vicinity of the Castle
Smith	15 (in relation to Concessionary Bus Travel)	Personal - County Card Holder
Waite	15 (in relation to works at Pelham Crescent and Arcade)	Prejudicial - Family member tendered for works relating to this

13. MINUTES

RESOLVED - that the minutes of the meeting held on 24 September 2007 be approved as a true record.

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**14. UPDATE ON DEVELOPMENT OF NEW EMPTY HOMES STRATEGY
2007-2013 POLICY DEVELOPMENT**

With the approval of the Chair, this item was moved forward in the agenda.

Councillor Bird gave a verbal update on the progression of the Empty Homes Strategy policy development project.

Good progress had been made on the development of the new Strategy and the panel are at the stage of completing a draft that can go forward for discussion and consultation prior to adoption.

Although previously reported that the panel should be in a position to respond by December 2007, the uncertainty on funding had delayed this process. It is anticipated that a full response could be given early in the new calendar year.

RESOLVED that the report be noted.

15. QUARTER TWO PERFORMANCE

Jane Hartnell, Head of Policy and Performance, presented the Quarter Two Performance report.

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).

Members discussed the new Working Neighbourhoods Funding and how it would impact on current services. Also discussed were the warden service, environmental health issues, gypsies and travellers (Councillor Lock left the Chamber while this matter was discussed) and concessionary bus travel. There was also some discussion on the Pelham Crescent works due to be undertaken (Councillor Waite left the Chamber while this matter was discussed).

Members asked for more information on DEFRA funding for sea defence work and the current situation relating to Pebsham Countryside Park. (Councillor Lock left the Chamber while this matter was discussed)

Thanks were conveyed to all staff in relation to the recent 'Best Park in the South East' award given to Alexandra Park in the 2007 Britain's Best Parks competition.

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Some discussion took place in relation to local target L190. Councillor Chowney suggested that thought be given to introducing a target for the length of time taken to process Disabilities Facilities Grants.

RESOLVED that:

- 1. staff in the Community Well Being, Environmental Services and Regeneration & Planning Directorates be thanked for their hard work;**
- 2. the committee be assured that action is being taken to improve any poor performance identified; and**
- 2. the report be noted.**

16. WHITE ROCK THEATRE - UPDATE

Martin Etchells, Head of Leisure Services, presented an update to the committee on the contract for management of the White Rock Theatre.

Members discussed the current situation in terms of the current contractor, Live Nation and also the process for selecting a new contractor.

RESOLVED that the report be noted.

17. TWIN BIN SCHEME

Mike Hepworth, Head of Environmental Health, presented an update on the progress of the Twin Bin Scheme.

Members raised concerns that the Council was not working sensitively enough with residents over the introduction and implementation of the scheme. Officers commented that since the start of the scheme, many residents had been placed on assisted collections and variations.

Recycling had certainly increased with the new scheme and incidences of fly-tipping had not increased; these were seen as encouraging signs.

It was hoped that the current percentage of residents on the scheme would be increased with the introduction of Phase Two.

RESOLVED that the report be noted.

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18. UPDATE ON SCRUTINY REVIEW OF MAINTAINING AND PROTECTING SEAFRONT/DELIVERY OF SEAFRONT STRATEGY

Councillor Chowney gave a verbal update on the progression of the scrutiny review of maintaining and protecting the seafront and delivery of the seafront strategy.

Two meetings had been held so far, along with a site visit to the White Rock Baths. This was a big review to undertake, but initial research was well underway.

RESOLVED that the report be noted.

19. 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 8.20pm)