

**OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY COMMITTEE FOR SERVICES
22 SEPTEMBER 2008**

Present: Councillors Bird, Fawthrop, Forward, Silverson (as the duly appointed substitute for Councillor Soan), Wilson and Webb (in the Chair)

Apologies were also received from Councillor Tucker, Lead Member for the Environment.

4. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

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

| <u>Councillor</u> | <u>Minute</u> | <u>Interest</u> |
|-----------------------|---------------|---|
| Lock, Webb and Wilson | Any | Personal – East Sussex County Council Councillors |
| Silverson | Any | Prejudicial – Any matter relating to Jerwood proposals (if discussed), as lives close to the vicinity |
| Fawthrop | 6 & 7 | Prejudicial – Trustee of Mediation Board and Citizens Advice Bureau (if discussed) |
| Lock | 7 | Personal – HVRL Director |
| Bird and Webb | 6 & 10 | Prejudicial – Foreshore Trust Trustees (if discussed) |

5. MINUTES

RESOLVED - that the minutes of the meetings held on 28 May and 17 June 2008 be approved as a true record.

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6. QUARTER ONE PERFORMANCE AND FINANCIAL MONITORING REPORT

Shabana Bayjou, Policy and Performance Officer, presented the Quarter One Performance report.

The report advised members of the performance against the 2008/09 targets in Part II and Part III of the Corporate Plan, together with related budget issues within the Environmental Services, Regeneration and Planning and Community Wellbeing Directorates.

Members raised concerns that the Empty Homes Strategy, a project completed by a group of members from the scrutiny committees, had not yet been forward to Cabinet. Andrew Palmer, Head of Housing Services, explained that the strategy had been looked at again as some aspects had changed. Officers were in the process of re-appraising priorities; this would create additional work for the strategy. Andrew Palmer assured the committee that, once revised, the Empty Homes Strategy would be brought back to this committee for approval before being submitted to Cabinet.

Members asked about the new White Rock Theatre contract process, Free Swimming for U16s and over 60s, vocational training successes and the Community Partnerships commissioning process (Cllr Fawthrop, having declared a prejudicial interest in the latter item, left the Chamber while the matter was discussed).

Particular concerns were raised on the restriction on recycling plastic materials as highlighted in the Waste and Recycling Targets – Target 3. Members felt that this needed to be investigated further with the contractor and also publicised to residents who may be unaware of the new restrictions. Members formally agreed that the Chair of the committee write to the Lead Member for Transport and Environment at East Sussex County Council, asking him to investigate the issue as a matter of urgency.

Members also asked that those involved in the Seafood and Wine Festival and Coastal Currents be thanked for their efforts in making this year's events such a success.

RESOLVED that:

- 1. staff in the Environmental Services, Regeneration and Planning and Community Wellbeing Directorates be thanked for their hard work; and**
- 2. the committee noted that action is being taken to improve any shortfalls in performance and/or to address risks highlighted; and**

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3. **future Performance reports to contain as much up to date information as possible.**

**7. ACCOMMODATION FOR VOLUNTARY SECTOR ORGANISATIONS
IN THE TOWN – SCRUTINY REVIEW ACTION PLAN UPDATE**

Mary Denning, Strategic Manager Regeneration and Community Services, presented an update report on accommodation for voluntary sector organisations displaced by the town centre redevelopment.

Members did raise concerns that Jackson Hall was not large enough to accommodate all displaced organisations. Mary Denning acknowledged this, but explained that a number of smaller organisations would be able to move across to Jackson Hall.

RESOLVED that the report be noted.

8. UPDATE ON SCRUTINY REVIEW OF SEAFRONT STRATEGY

In Councillor Chowney's absence, Councillor Fawthrop gave a brief update on the current scrutiny review of the Seafront Strategy. He explained that the review team were at their draft report stage now, after a challenging and complex review.

RESOLVED that the report be noted.

**9. UPDATE ON SCRUTINY REVIEW OF EFFECTIVENESS OF CCTV
AS A CRIME DETERRENT INCLUDING ANTI-SOCIAL BEHAVIOUR**

Councillor Fawthrop updated the committee on the progress of this review. He commented on how this had been an interesting review so far. He went on to explain how a workshop had been held, bringing together members of residents' associations, community groups and the police. This had been an informative meeting and members had gained useful insight. Councillor Fawthrop explained that a draft report was in the process of being written and would be presented to the committee shortly.

Councillor Fawthrop also asked that the dedication of the CCTV control room staff be mentioned and acknowledged by the committee.

RESOLVED that the report be noted.

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10. MONITORING THE IMPLEMENTATION OF CABINET DECISIONS

Katrina Silverson, 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 8.06pm)