

**OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY COMMITTEE FOR SERVICES  
11 DECEMBER 2008**

Present: Councillors Bird, Fawthrop (until 6.45pm), Forward, Soan, Webb (in the Chair) and Wilson

**12. 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                               |
| Bird and Webb         | Any                                   | Prejudicial – Foreshore Trust Trustees (if discussed)                           |
| Lock                  | 15 (in relation to recycling targets) | Prejudicial– East Sussex County Council Lead Member for Transport & Environment |

**13. MINUTES**

Councillor Lock raised a correction on the minutes of the meeting held on 17 September. The declaration of interest Councillor Lock declared should read 'Director of HBRL' and not 'HVRL'.

**RESOLVED that following the amendment to the minutes as stated above, the minutes of the meetings on 22 September and 14 October 2008 be approved as a true record.**

**14. FINAL REPORT ON SCRUTINY REVIEW OF EFFECTIVENESS OF CCTV AS A CRIME DETERRENT INCLUDING ANTI-SOCIAL BEHAVIOUR**

This item was moved up the agenda at the request of Councillor Fawthrop.

Councillor Fawthrop presented the final report of the review team. The review had looked closely at the role of CCTV within the town and looked at effectiveness in terms of crime prevention as well as cost effectiveness. The

O&S S.10

## **OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY COMMITTEE FOR SERVICES 11 DECEMBER 2008**

review team had also interviewed a number of community representatives to gauge their views on CCTV.

Councillor Lock shared information with the committee regarding one of the recommendations in the action plan; this was reference to the establishment of a Lay Visitors Group. He mentioned that Sussex Police had raised concerns over privacy laws, in relation to Lay Visitors viewing CCTV footage without detainees' knowledge or consent. Councillor Fawthrop replied that this Lay Visitors Group would be slightly different in the sense that the group would only be viewing live CCTV footage when visiting the CCTV control room. Richard Homewood, Corporate Director for Environmental Services concurred with this and also added that any members of the group would be checked through the Criminal Records Bureau (CRB). In light of these comments, members agreed to amend wording within the action plan to alleviate concerns.

Councillor Webb extended his thanks to Councillor Fawthrop as Chair of the review and all those involved.

**RESOLVED (unanimously) that the committee approve the report and action plan subject to the following amendments:**

- 1. Item 2 of the action plan to read, 'Investigate the establishment of a Lay Visitors Group in consultation with Sussex Police and ensure that regular lay visits are made to verify that the Codes of Practice are being complied with and civil liberties are not being infringed'; and**
- 2. Item 3 of the action plan to have a timescale for completion of 'Ongoing'.**

### **15. QUARTER TWO PERFORMANCE AND FINANCIAL MONITORING REPORT**

Jane Hartnell, Head of Policy, Partnerships and Sustainability, presented the Quarter Two 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 questions relating to the maintenance of Priory Street car park, untaxed and abandoned vehicles and the new contract arrangements for White Rock Theatre.

## **OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY COMMITTEE FOR SERVICES 11 DECEMBER 2008**

Particular concerns were raised on recycling initiatives, especially in regard to plastics. Members felt that members of the public could be come confused at what they could and could not recycle in the way of plastics and felt that there should be better communication. Richard Homewood, Corporate Director for Environmental Services replied that all leaflets and booklets were revised frequently, as well as information conveyed on the Council's website and in the About Magazine. He explained that all bottles of plastic type 1, 2 or 3 could be recycled; it was the food containers that were the cause of most rejection at the recycling plant.

Members also asked for further information around progression into vocational training and skills opportunities for young people not in education, employment or training. Simon Hubbard, Corporate Director for Regeneration and Planning advised that he would report back to members with more information and statistics.

### **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**

### **16. MONITORING OF THE IMPLEMENTATION OF CABINET DECISIONS**

This item was moved up the agenda at the request of the Head of Policy, Partnerships and Sustainability, as one particular decision followed on from the previous agenda item.

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.

Jane Hartnell, Head of Policy, Partnerships and Sustainability explained to the committee that, on 3 November, Cabinet had agreed to consult internally and externally on the re-drafted Council Priorities; she referred members to the Cabinet report. Members were asked for their initial comments on the priorities and were reminded that they would also have another opportunity to comment at this committee in February 2009.

Members agreed to note the redrafted Council Priorities this time and hold a more detailed discussion at their meeting in February 2009.

O&S S.12

**OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY COMMITTEE FOR SERVICES  
11 DECEMBER 2008**

**RESOLVED** that the report be noted.

**17. COMMUNITIES IN CONTROL: IMPROVING LOCAL  
ACCOUNTABILITY CONSULTATION**

Graham Belchamber, Scrutiny and Democratic Services Manager presented the Council's response to Central Government consultation on Communities in Control: Improving Local Accountability.

He explained that the consultation had involved lead members and senior officers. The response had also been discussed with the Chairs and Vice Chairs of Overview and Scrutiny (O&S). The consultation asked for views on a number of areas including joint O&S committees for Local Area Agreement scrutiny, resource implications for O&S, procedures for O&S involvement in petitions and remote attendance at committee meetings.

**RESOLVED** that the report be noted.

**18. UPDATE ON SCRUTINY REVIEW OF SEAFRONT STRATEGY**

Councillor Chowney was unable to attend the meeting to give a verbal update, but had provided a written submission which Katrina Silversson, Scrutiny Officer, read out to the committee.

This had been a long and detailed project for the review team and was now at the draft report stage. It was anticipated that a final report would be presented to this committee in March 2009.

**RESOLVED** that the report be noted.

(The Chair declared the meeting closed at 7.53pm)

O&S S.13