

**OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY COMMITTEE FOR SERVICES
9 FEBRUARY 2009**

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

19. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

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

<u>Councillor</u>	<u>Minute</u>	<u>Interest</u>
Bird & Webb	21 & 22	Prejudicial – Any discussion relating to the Foreshore Trust as both Trustees

20. MINUTES

RESOLVED that the minutes of the meeting held on 11 December 2008 be approved as a true record.

21. DRAFT CORPORATE PLAN 2009/10 – 2011/12

Jane Hartnell, Head of Policy, Partnerships and Sustainability gave a brief introduction of the draft Corporate Plan which set out the proposed priority areas of activity and investment for 2009/10 to 2011/12. Members were invited to comment on the draft Plan and related budget proposals.

Members discussed the draft Corporate Priorities in some detail, making particular reference to the green waste collection service, crematorium, the Letstart scheme and the Hastings/Bexhill link road. Members formally gave their support for more publicity regarding the green waste scheme, in order to encourage more participation by residents. It was suggested that the wording relating to the mercury abating equipment at the crematorium be amended for the sake of clarity; this also was suggested for the wording related to the Hasting/Bexhill link road. Members also formally expressed their support for the Letstart scheme.

Members also discussed the Public Realm and Town Centres cross-cutting group, especially in regard to lack of funding for smaller projects within the Borough. Simon Hubbard, Corporate Director for Regeneration and Planning agreed to share information flagged up by the cross-cutting group relating to potential funding choices.

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RESOLVED that the comments from the Overview and Scrutiny Committee on the Council's draft Corporate Plan for 2009/10 - 2011/12 be referred to Cabinet.

22. CONSULTATION ON REVENUE BUDGET 2008-09 REVISED AND 2009-10, CAPITAL PROGRAMME 2008-09 TO 2011-2012

Neil Dart, Deputy Chief Executive and Director of Corporate Resources, gave a brief introduction on the Revenue Budget and Capital Programme as part of the public consultation process. Members were invited to submit their comments on the budget proposals.

Members were given an overview of the shortfall in concessionary travel, which had seen a gap of approximately £800,000 over two years. This meant there would remain a strong focus on achieving efficiencies around the Council.

The committee discussed the recent Use of Resources Assessment, where the Council had achieved a favourable marking. Councillor Webb asked the committee to join him in thanking all staff involved in this process.

Members discussed the use of capital reserves and asked if the Council had set a minimum level. Neil Dart explained that the recommended minimum level of reserves was £3 million. Members agreed that the reserves should remain at this minimum level and not be allowed to fall below.

RESOLVED that the comments from the Overview and Scrutiny Committee on the Revenue Budget and Capital Programme be referred to Cabinet.

(The Chair declared the meeting closed at 7.20pm)