

**OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY COMMITTEE FOR SERVICES
16 MARCH 2009**

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

Apologies were received from Councillors Soan and Tucker. Apologies for lateness were received from Councillor Lock.

23. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

Councillors declared no interests at this meeting.

24. MINUTES

RESOLVED that the minutes of the meeting held on 9 February 2009 be approved as a true record.

25. QUARTER THREE PERFORMANCE AND FINANCIAL MONITORING REPORT

Chantal Lass, Sustainability Policy Officer, presented the Quarter Three 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 discussed Area Based Grants, fly-posting, garden waste and the proposed link road.

Members made particular reference to the issue of dog fouling within the borough and thanked officers for having a proactive approach to this.

The committee also thanked those officers involved in producing comprehensive information packs for Woolworths staff affected by the closure of the store. Members agreed that these information packs should be produced again if there were any other major retail closures within the town, due to the economic downturn.

RESOLVED that:

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- 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**

26. FINAL REPORT ON SCRUTINY REVIEW OF MAINTAINING AND PROTECTING SEAFRONT/DELIVERY OF SEAFRONT STRATEGY

Councillor Chowney presented the report on the Seafront Strategy scrutiny review. He thanked all those involved in the review.

Members felt that this was an extremely comprehensive and well researched report. They also agreed that this was a core document by which to work from in terms of the seafront.

RESOLVED that:

- 1. the report and associated action plan be agreed and forwarded to Cabinet for discussion; and**
- 2. potential seafront development opportunities continue to be investigated and evaluated to make best use of future external funding streams when available.**

27. EMPTY HOMES STRATEGY 2009-2013

Andrew Palmer, Head of Housing Services presented a revised Empty Homes Strategy to the committee. The strategy had undergone a critical reassessment in light of the prevailing set of economic and housing market conditions.

Members were agreeable to the strategy having been revised in light of the economic downturn.

RESOLVED that following consultation with the community and stakeholders, the revised Empty Homes Strategy be taken forward to Cabinet in June 2009 with the recommendation that the Strategy be adopted.

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28. AFFORDABLE HOUSING AND PLANNING POLICY – POLICY DEVELOPMENT ACTION PLAN UPDATE

Tim Cookson, Borough Planning Officer presented an update to the committee on future revisions to affordable housing policy as delivered through the planning system.

Members had undertaken a policy development project on this in 2007.

RESOLVED that:

- 1. the progress on the Local Development Framework and, in particular, revisions to affordable housing be noted; and**
- 2. the committee ‘sign off’ the action plan as completed.**

29. MONITORING OF 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 8.20pm)